NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026 / Mostly sunny, 82° / Weather: P. 26 ★★ SUNDAY nypost.com $2.00

GOAAALLL!

WORLD CUP'S ON- AND OFF-FIELD WINNERS & LOSERS

PAGES 12-13

HELL TO PAY

US Central Command via X

The US launched retaliatory strikes Saturday on Iran after the regime killed two US service members. In an exclusive interview with The Post, President Trump called the deaths "a shame" but argued the mission remains critical. "They did it because they don't want to see Iran have a nuclear weapon," Trump said.

PAGES 4-5

US hits back hard after Iran kills two GIs

NEW YORK POST

News Columns
Michael Goodwin 15
Johnny Oleksinski 21
News of the World 30
Gossip
Page Six 16
Gimme Shelter 18
Weather p. 26
PostScript p. 35-44
Sunday Break p. 45-54
Puzzles 45-47
Celebrity Snaps ... 48-51
Horoscope 54
TV Decider 52-53
Business p. 55
Classifieds p. 56
Sports p. 56-83

LOTTERY

NEW YORK

- Midday Nos. Sat.: **527**
- Midday Win-4 Sat.: **5078**
- Midday Take-5 Sat.: **1, 26, 27, 30, 35**
- Evening Nos. Sat.: **507**
- Evening Win-4 Sat.: **2231**
- Evening Take-5 Sat.: **2, 5, 8, 13, 20**
- Lotto Sat.: **13, 21, 29, 34, 42, 45**; Bonus: **19**
- Pick-10 Sat.: **1, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 30, 37, 42, 43, 47, 50, 52, 53, 62, 63, 76**
- Millionaire for Life Sat.: **18, 23, 28, 32, 49**; MB: **3**
- Powerball Sat.: **9, 14, 44, 50, 56**; PB: **3**; PP: **x4**; DP: **5, 11, 25, 26, 64**; PB: **11**

NEW JERSEY

- Pick-3 Sat.: **070;** Fireball: **4**
- Pick-4 Sat.: **5770;** Fireball: **4**
- Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **14, 23, 32, 36, 41**; Xtra: **2**

CONNECTICUT

- Play-3 Sat.: **731;** Wild: **5**
- Play-4 Sat.: **9082;** Wild: **4**
- Cash-5 Sat.: **1, 2, 5, 9, 32**

POST CONTACTS

Editorial
Main Office .... (212) 930-8000
News Tips .... (212) 930-8500
Sports Desk .... (212) 930-8700

Circulation and Home Delivery
Customer Service .... (800) 552-7678

Mail subscription & back issues only: Phone 1-888-208-4157 or contact New York Post, P.O. Box 1407, Bellmawr, NJ, 08099. Foreign and domestic mail subscription rates available upon request to the Publishers Information Center, Inc.
Postmaster: Send address changes to The New York Post, 1211 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10036-8790.

Vol. 225, No. 246. Copyright 2026, NYP Holdings Inc. (USPS-383200) Published daily by NYP Holdings Inc., 1211 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-8790.

76

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and additional offices. The Post uses recycled paper.

‘Data’-driven Kat

‘Centers’ pause placates DSA

By RICH CALDER

Gov. Hochul caved to democratic socialists when she made New York the first state to stop construction of large data centers, critics told The Post.

Hochul signed an executive order (right) Tuesday enacting a one-year statewide moratorium on new “hyperscale” data centers that need at least 50 megawatts of power to run, bending the knee to the Democratic Socialists of America, which has made the hubs a big focus of campaigns across the country.

Matt Roberts/Shutterstock

DSA chapters in Seattle, Portland and other parts of the US are organizing against data-center developments, claiming they push a Big Tech agenda that includes support for Israel, and citing concerns over water consumption and the massive energy needed to operate them.

Albany was the first to buckle in large part because of the far-left’s rising clout on the lobbying and legislative front, said Stu Smith, an analyst for the Manhattan Institute who has studied the DSA’s surging opposition to the centers.

“I think it’s silly because there are definitely people in New York City trying to make it the AI capital of the world,” he said. “New York is really shooting itself in the foot by [imposing the moratorium].”

The Empire State needs to only look south to Loudoun County, Va., to see what riches it’s missing out on, said Smith.

Loudoun handles 70% of the world’s daily internet traffic and is home to roughly 250 data centers.

Often called “Data Center Alley,” the industry has made Loudoun one of the wealthiest regions in the US, as data centers make up only 3% of the county’s land but generate $1.3 billion in local property tax revenue.

Hochul spokesperson Jennifer Goodman, said anyone suggesting the governor supported the moratorium to cater to far-left pols “is disconnected from reality,” citing a recent Gallup poll showing 7 in 10 Americans oppose the construction of AI data centers in their neighborhoods.

NEW YORK
POWERBALL®
DOUBLE PLAY®
POWERPLAY
NEW YORK LOTTERY
IF ONLY EVERYTHING GOOD WAS DOUBLED LIKE POWERBALL® DOUBLE PLAY®
Image generated using AI.

Play your Powerball® numbers again in the Double Play® drawing for a chance to win up to $10,000,000.

PLEASE PLAY RESPONSIBLY / Must be 18+
Gambling problem? Call 1-877-8-HOPENY
or text HOPENY. **PlayResponsiblyNY.com**

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

NEW YORK STATE
Recyclable Tickets
© 2026 New York Lottery

A weighty nation of losers

America is slimming down — one shot at a time.

The number of US adults turning to blockbuster GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy for weight loss has hit a record high, nearly quadrupling in just two years.

Now the shift is showing up on the scale, with national obesity rates edging lower after years of steady increases.

The eye-popping figures come from a new Gallup survey of 5,065 adults nationwide conducted between May 28 and June 5.

The pollster found that 11% of Americans ages 18 and older are currently taking GLP-1s for weight loss, up from just 3% who reported using them in 2024.

The reach of the medications is even wider: 15% of respondents said they have used the next-generation diabetes and obesity drugs to shed pounds at some point — a 9-percentage-point increase in just two years.

The surge in GLP-1 use coincides with a downturn in the nation's obesity crisis. After peaking at a record 39.9% in 2022, the adult obesity rate has gradually fallen to 36.4% in 2026.

Meanwhile, the national diabetes rate has held steady after climbing steadily for 15 years.

GLP-1s — short for glucagon-like peptide-1 drugs — work by mimicking hormones naturally released by the gut after eating to help regulate blood sugar, appetite and digestion.

McKenzie Beard

'Chloe'sing the books on 'SNL'

Chloe Fineman's relationships with her "Saturday Night Live" castmates weren't always easy.

Just a day after announcing she was leaving the show after seven seasons, a source told Page Six that, while Fineman, 37, formed close friendships with some co-stars, she didn't necessarily mesh with everybody.

"Chloe could rub people the wrong way at times," the insider said. "Not everyone clicked with her. Some cast members felt like she expected people to accommodate her and assumed everyone would adjust to her schedule and preferences."

Representatives for Fineman and NBC did not respond to Page Six's requests for comment.

Sarah Jones

World Cup's 'aye' Candy

We'll toast to supermodel Candice Swanepoel, who brings a lovely touch of curvaceous style to the World Cup "Tequila Don Julio 1942 Port of Champions" event in Manhattan before today's championship match.

BFA.com / BACKGRID

'WATT' A CLASSY ROBOT

New teach runs on AI

By SHANE GALVIN

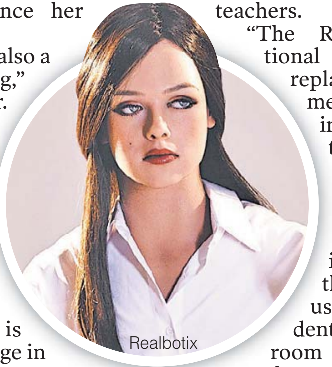
They're bot for teacher.

A rural upstate New York school district will be one of the first in the nation to bring a humanoid robot into the classroom.

The Salamanca City Central School District, located on Seneca Nation territory, will be introducing $57,000 AI-powered "Sally" in high school classes in September as a teaching assistant, it announced last week.

"Sally" (inset) will have brown hair, latex skin and will be able to move its arms and hands — but won't be able to cruise around the classroom since her legs don't move.

"It's exciting but also a bit nerve-wracking," superintendent Dr. Mark Beehler told The Post of the first-of-its-kind pilot program, a partnership with Las Vegas-based company Realbotix Corporation.



Realbotix

"Not everyone is open to much change in education . . . There was a point in time where people argued 'Why do teachers need email accounts?' or 'Do we really need to have the internet in school?' This is the next iteration of that. And the reality is, AI is already in schools," he said.

Sounds like Kat

For now, "Sally" is scheduled to be in 11th and 12th grade classrooms at Salamanca High School where she will take a byte out of coding, robotic and artificial intelligence classes.

To make "Sally" more approachable, she'll feature a western New York accent — similar to Buffalo native Gov. Hochul — at the behest of the school district.

"We don't really hear the accent. We think it sounds neutral," Beehler joked.

The bot, which uses about the same amount of electricity as a laptop, will assist students and teachers in classes that are in the Woz Ed Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics courses, developed by the co-founder of Apple, Steve Wozniak.

Human teachers safe

In September, she will be available for only coding, robotics and AI classes, according to Beehler.

School officials vowed that "Sally" will "never" usher out teachers.

"The Realbotix educational robot will never replace teachers, staff members, or meaningful human interaction," the district said in a statement.

"Instead, it serves as another instructional tool that educators can use to engage students, reinforce classroom learning, and spark curiosity about emerging technologies."

There will be many guardrails on "Sally," which operates on an off-line, closed AI system that is designed not to give answers, but to respond with prompts to students' questions.

"It will provide data but will encourage the student to think for themselves and demonstrate a comprehension of the material," said Beeher.

"Sally" will not collect any personal information or record any video or audio, and it will not transmit any data to Realbotix, the superintendent assured.

The more advanced $125,000 full-bodied F-Series model from Realbotix stands on its own two legs, but still requires wheels to get around.

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

Trump: We will avenge our soldiers

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

CENTCOM

COUNTERSTRIKE: The US on Saturday launches a new wave of airstrikes ordered by President Trump after attacks by Tehran — on civilian ships and its Gulf neighbors, including Kuwait (below and right) — left two service members dead and another missing.

The US soldiers killed by Iran made the ultimate sacrifice to prevent the Islamic regime from obtaining a nuclear weapon, President Trump told The Post Saturday in an exclusive interview — after he ordered a furious response to the Iranian aggression.

Speaking an hour into the latest US bombing campaign coming after the killings of two US service members in an Iranian attack on a base in Jordan, Trump called the deaths "a shame" but argued the mission remains critical.

"They did it because they don't want to see Iran have a nuclear weapon," Trump said of the troops. ". . . And it just shows you how bad [the Iranians] are."

When asked if he planned to contact the families of the fallen, Trump responded: "Of course I will. I always do. Yeah."

CENTCOM announced late Saturday night that it had ended its latest attack on Iranian targets.

Two US service members were killed defending against a wave of Iranian ballistic missile and drone strikes in Jordan, with a third member MIA, in the deadliest attack by Tehran since spring.

"On July 17, two US service members in Jordan were killed in action as U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and partner forces defended against Iranian ballistic missile and drone attacks," the US military said in a statement.

"Additionally, one service member is currently missing in action."

The Friday attack brought the first fatalities to US military personnel since Trump ended the cease-fire with Iran last week.

Four additional US troops were evacuated to hospitals in Jordan, but have since been released. Other personnel who suffered minor injuries have already returned to duty, the military said.

Iran's official state broadcaster warned people to "stay away" from American military bases Saturday as Tehran escalated its attacks in the Persian Gulf region and formally suspended its commitment to the US-Iran memorandum of understanding it had violated from the start.

"If you want to remain safe from Iran's missiles, summon your #courage and assert your #independence, and shut down U.S. military bases on your territory," Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting posted to X, encouraging US allies in the region to abandon Washington.

Tehran has claimed the strikes came in retaliation for the US hitting civilian targets in Iran over the past eight days — but White House spokesperson Anna Kelly told The Post that the US was only striking military targets in Iran.

"The United States Military has carried out strikes exclusively on military targets, including military logistics infrastructure," she said. "In contrast, the Iranian regime has intentionally targeted civilian vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and lashed out against its neighbors who have no role in this conflict."

'Godspeed, heroes'

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth posted to X that their deaths will not deter the US military.

"Godspeed, heroes," he wrote. "Their sacrifice only stiffens our resolve."

The president also defended the war after several Democratic members of Congress made statements blaming him for the troops' deaths.

"Have you ever asked how many people died in Vietnam? Have you ever asked how many people died in Afghanistan in one day? In one day — run by Sleepy Joe Biden," Trump said.

"This is two wars we're talking about: Venezuela and this. And it's a shame, but in this case, they died because they don't want to see Iran have a nuclear weapon and they don't want to see the Middle East blown up."

Trump has consistently argued that preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon is a core US national security interest, warning that a nuclear-armed Tehran would destabilize the Middle East and threaten American allies.

The service members killed Friday are the first US fatalities since Trump declared the cease-fire with Iran "over" last week following Tehran's targeting of three ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran was supposed to have reopened the strait as part of the US-Iran memorandum of understanding that cemented the cease-fire.

Several House Democrats exploited the tragedy to call for an end to the war.

"We owe our service members and their families a debt that can never be fully repaid, but we must begin by preventing future loss of life and bringing this war to an end," Rep. Sarah Elfreth (D-Md.) posted to X.

"This country owes a debt that can never be repaid, but we can prevent more tragic loss of life," Rep. Herb Conaway (D-NJ) posted to X. "I demand that Trump end this war that he started and Republicans in Congress do the same. Enough is enough."

Republicans called for prayers and put the Iranian regime on notice. "We honor their sacrifice, stand with our troops, and remain committed to holding those responsible accountable," Rep. Cory Mills (R-Fla.) wrote.

Friday's attack marks the deadliest day for US forces in the Middle East since March, underscoring the escalating threat posed by

who made ultimate sacrifice

U.S. WAR FURY ON TEHRAN

European Union via Reuters; AFP via Getty Images (2)

Tehran. It brings the total US troops killed in the war on Iran to 16.

Iran began launching missile and drone strikes against American military facilities in Kuwait and Bahrain on Friday night, while also hitting sites in Saudi infrastructure and sites in Iraq.

CENTCOM declined to provide a damage assessment, but on Friday told The Post, “US forces in the region remain fully operational.”

Tehran targeted Kuwaiti oil, power and water desalination facilities, escalating its bombing campaign to include critical civilian infrastructure alongside military targets.

Jordan’s armed forces said they intercepted a number of missiles and drones that entered the kingdom’s airspace, adding that the military acted to protect the nation’s sovereignty and its citizens.

Foundation for Defending Democracies’ Iran program director Behnam Ben told The Post, “We should not be shocked to hear and see that Tehran is expanding its terrorism to the skies of its neighbors.

Hitting its neighbors

“The Islamic Republic started this latest round of violence in the region and is now struggling to explain away its embrace of a scorched-earth policy against its neighbors,” he said.

The latest barrage marks one of the Iranian regime’s broadest regional attacks in recent months, expanding beyond military installations to include energy and water infrastructure in gulf states that host US forces.

The attacks have also put US-Iran mediators in a predicament, challenging their neutrality that has helped bring together Washington and Tehran for continued peace talks.

A child was injured in Qatar in the strikes on Friday, and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah on Saturday dialed up Pakistani Mohammad Ishaq Dar to discuss “serious concerns regarding the continued attacks on its territory,” according to Doha and Islamabad.

Additional reporting by David Spector

Big sign of Iran’s Don bloodlust

An ominous new Iranian billboard unveiled after the death of Sen. Lindsey Graham alludes to President Trump as the Islamic Republic’s next target — the latest escalation in a series of threats on the president’s life over the past week.

The red billboard, splashed in the busy Valiasr Square in central Tehran, asks “Who is D nexT one?” — capitalizing the letters of the commander-in-chief’s initials — along with the hashtag #LindseyGraham.

The late South Carolina lawmaker was among the fiercest critics of the Islamic Republic, repeatedly branding it the “mothership of terrorism” and warning the US would use military force to “knock Iran out of the oil business.”

Graham, 71, died suddenly last Saturday — just two days after returning home from a trip to Ukraine — after having chest pains.

The medical examiner said he had a tear in his aorta, but after FBI agents were seen searching his DC home Monday, theories about whether foul play was involved have swirled.

Tehran’s latest billboard is controlled by an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-linked media organization and is regularly used to project messages for the regime, according to Iran International.

Gabrielle Fahmy

A worldwide travel warning

The State Department issued a rare worldwide caution to American travelers Saturday afternoon after two US soldiers were killed in Iranian attacks on Jordan.

“Due to high tensions in the Middle East, the security environment remains complex with the potential for unforeseen escalation,” said the alert, which warned that groups supporting the Islamic Republic may strike US assets and citizens anywhere in the world, and that Iran already targeted US diplomatic facilities in the Middle East and outside the region.

It urged Americans to exercise “increased caution.”

Katherine Donlevy
and David Spector

Leader of lefties' anti-cop training

CUNY PROF A DSA GOON

RADICAL: Walter Lucken IV teaches writing at Queens College and also instructs Democratic Socialists of America members on how to hold demonstrations and thwart police.

Facebook / Walter Lucken IV

By GABRIELLE FAHMY

A CUNY professor is one of the leaders of the Democratic Socialists of America's emerging paramilitary wing — which held a rare training session in NYC this week.

Walter Lucken IV is an assistant professor of English at Queens College who made $105,000 on the taxpayer's dime last year, but on Thursday night he was leading a workshop for the Red Rabbits Security Commission on ways to skirt the law and lie to police.

"I moved here from Detroit, where police will beat you up if you don't say anything if they ask you a question," said Lucken, 35, at the workshop at the DSA's dingy Lower East Side headquarters. "In New York, you're allowed to just not say anything if the police talk to you . . . you can look right at them."

"Play to their love of hierarchy . . . act confident even when feeding misinformation . . . police will sometimes let you do things that are not technically legal."

Lucken, who lives in a $3,000-a-month two-bedroom apartment in Kensington with his therapist wife, specializes in "public rhetorics of state violence, incarceration and higher education," according to his online bio for the Journal of Multimodal Rethorics.

The Red Rabbits Security Commission, launched at last year's national DSA convention, has been preparing for a "national uprising against federal agents and police brutality," according to its authorizing resolution.

In other cities — Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Tucson, Austin and Portland — Red Rabbits "self-defense" trainings have taught members to block intersections and fight "fascists" with umbrellas, pepper spray and martial arts, along with what one chapter billed as "sick" firearm safety courses.

Not bothered by bust

Lucken, who said he joined the DSA after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attacks, downplayed getting arrested, telling the dozens of attendees a mere charge of disorderly conduct wouldn't show up on a job background check.

"The state relies on the mystique surrounding the arrest process to keep us in a state of fearful inaction," he said. "They want people to be like, 'Oh if I get arrested at a protest that's the worst thing that could ever happen in my life.' "

DSA members were also told to avoid detection by using Signal chat with disappearing messages, turning off fingerprint, facial recognition and location tracking on their cell phones and destroying documents — and were discouraged from applying for permits for demonstrations.

"The state is not invincible," declared another Red Rabbit leader.

Since its inauguration, the Red Rabbits Security Commission has been a source of internal controversy — including an unsuccessful effort to remove a violence-praising Maoist organizer — leftist influencer Christopher Winston — who has claimed "burning a Waymo is not political violence" and has threatened to "execute" rivals.

Lucken, who serves as a Queens College delegate to CUNY's professors union, the Professional Staff Congress, is teaching "Writing about Writing" in the English Department next fall, according to CUNY's online class schedule.

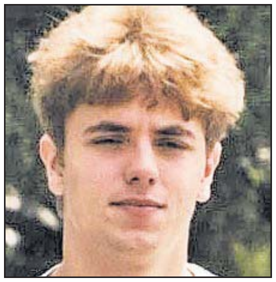
"I instruct students to imagine the act of argumentation as a search for the balance between that which is true or just on the one hand and that which is persuasive on the other," he writes on his CUNY faculty page.

He is not alone

The socialist is among a rogues' gallery of controversial professors employed by the taxpayer-funded university over the years.

They include recently reinstated anti-Israel and anti-America Corinna Mullin, who recently professed her love for the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps at a DSA meeting, and Shellyne Rodriguez, an unhinged Hunter College arts professor who held a machete to a Post reporter's neck and made wild threats to "chop" him.

CUNY and Lucken did not return The Post's request for comment.



JAYDEN FEDERLINE
Britney Spears' son

Hey, my ma is *not* a clone!

Britney Spears' son Jayden Federline is hitting back at the bizarre conspiracy theory that the pop star has been cloned.

"I hop on TikTok and I see this one video that has 1.2 million likes, and the caption is like, 'The biggest theory ever: Is Britney Spears still alive?' " Jayden, 19, said during a Friday livestream, per Us Weekly. "Like, bro, you can go to her page and see her right now."

"It makes me know that a lot of the stuff on media is exaggerated and fake," he continued. "People know how gullible people are, and they use that to their advantage. Anyone that sees it on media, they just see it, and if it has a lot of likes, they [believe] it. They don't even research it; they're just, 'Wow, yeah, it's crazy. I believe it.' "

Jayden and his brother, Sean Preston, 20, whom Spears shares with her ex Kevin Federline, have had a rocky relationship with their mother over the years.

For many years, they did not see Spears, but their relationship appears to have improved. They reportedly held an intervention before she went into rehab earlier this year. *Nicki Gostin*

Evil beasts at beauty spa took me for $675,000

A shady New York City spa allegedly intimidated and manipulated an elderly woman into forking over a whopping $675,000 on outrageous "snake oil" treatments and other absurd beauty products.

Phyllis Sousa joins a trio of women who say they were taken for a total of $800,000 by Olle Beauty Clinic's "predatory" tactics — claiming staff lured them into the spa with flattery before relentlessly pressuring them to hand over their credit cards.

Sousa, 76, says in July 12 papers filed in Manhattan Supreme Court she was drained of $675,000 between 2022 and 2025.

Whenever she would try to refuse to buy more sessions at the Upper East Side facility on East 65th Street, she was viciously berated and guilt-tripped by employees, she claims in court docs.

Dinah Evan, 87, claims she was charged more than $27,000 in December 2025 for a phony "membership" to the facility after she was "cornered" by employees who demanded she agree to the offer immediately, according to the complaint.

The damning accusations against the beauty center first emerged in February, when Elizabeth Childs-Johnson, 77, accused the business of forcing her to spend $105,000 on treatments.

The semi-retired researcher alleged an employee buttered her up with compliments and lured her into the spa in December 2024, ultimately pressuring her to agree to 12 facials for $40,000.

Olle's attorney Avram Turkel denied these claims and said the allegations are "fabrications."

The women "were our client's repeat and valued customers. At the time of each purchase, they acknowledged the return policy and signed receipts," Turkel wrote in an email.

Sonya Gugliara

‘Death crash’ lawsuit

The Uber driver whose car was struck by reckless wigmaker Miriam Yarimi moments before she plowed into a Brooklyn family — killing a mother and two of her young daughters — is suing Yarimi for crashing into him.

Rustam Uzakov, 64, was driving four passengers in his silver 2023 Toyota Camry along Ocean Parkway near Quentin Road on March 29, 2025, when prosecutors say Yarimi, speeding in her blue 2023 Audi A3, slammed into his vehicle.

The impact sent Yarimi’s car careening into the crosswalk, where it struck Natasha Saada, 35, and her three young children as they walked with the light.

Police said Yarimi, whose Audi bore the vanity license plate “WIGM8KER,” was traveling 68 mph in a 25 mph zone when the crash occurred. Natasha and her daughters, Diana, 8, and Deborah, 5, were killed, while her son Philip, then 4, was critically injured. The car then flipped and landed about 130 feet away.

His exact injuries are not made clear in the lawsuit in the filed in Brooklyn Supreme court on Monday.

Uzakov is demanding unspecified damages for past and future medical expenses. *Sonya Gugliara*

Sickening lettuce list

Produce giant Taylor Farms released a full list of recalled products after a cyclospora outbreak that has sickened hundreds of people in five states.

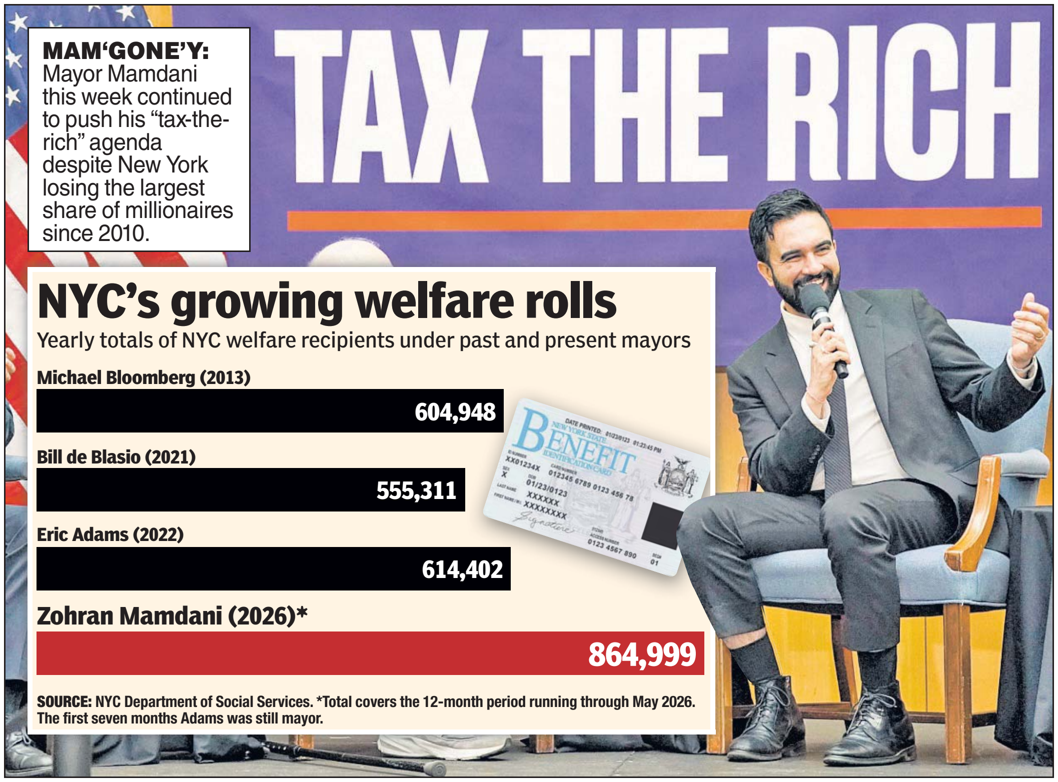
The company voluntarily removed all iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico from the US market “because it has the potential to be contaminated with Cyclospora,” per recall information on its website.

Consumers who have purchased the recalled iceberg lettuce should discard it immediately.

Full refunds are also available at the location of purchase, according to the company. *Jeanne Erickson*

$2.7B ‘DOLE’ ROLL

By RICH CALDER



MAM‘GONE’Y: Mayor Mamdani this week continued to push his “tax-the-rich” agenda despite New York losing the largest share of millionaires since 2010.

NYC’s growing welfare rolls

Yearly totals of NYC welfare recipients under past and present mayors

Michael Bloomberg (2013)

Bill de Blasio (2021)

Eric Adams (2022)

Zohran Mamdani (2026)*

SOURCE: NYC Department of Social Services. *Total covers the 12-month period running through May 2026. The first seven months Adams was still mayor.

Robert Miller

865K on welfare – Mam not done yet

New York City dished out welfare checks to nearly 865,000 people over the past year — a historic handout that has sent public assistance spending skyrocketing to a record-breaking $2.7 billion, The Post can reveal.

The city’s Department of Social Services served a staggering 864,999 welfare recipients for the 12-month period ending May 30, a whopping 55.7% increase since 2022 and totals the Big Apple hasn’t seen in roughly 30 years, an examination of agency records found.

The city’s taxpayer-funded budget for cash-assistance payments soared even higher — up 72.6%, from $1.57 billion in fiscal 2022 to its current $2.71 billion for the fiscal year that began July 1.

Mayor Mamdani inherited the welfare crisis from his predecessor Eric Adams — but there’s been little change since the socialist took office in January.

And critics fear it’s only a matter of time before he pushes more millionaires and billionaires out of the Big Apple — and with them jobs — sending welfare rolls even further through the roof.

‘Reliant on government’

“This is the Communist Playbook 101: make everyone reliant on the government, so the masses have no choice but to support the people signing their checks,” predicted Councilwoman Joann Ariola (R-Queens). “This is only going to get worse as the Democratic Socialists of America ramp up their tax-the-rich rhetoric and drive even more jobs out of the city. With every job they force out, the far left gets one more person dependent on them. It’s all part of the plan.”

Adams inherited an annual public-assistance caseload totaling 555,311 in 2021, the final year of the administration of former Mayor and avowed Marxist Bill de Blasio, and watched it soar to 864,608 by the time he left office at the end of 2025, records show.

When The Post asked the DSS in February 2024 to explain why welfare rolls were rising under Adams, agency officials blamed the economic impact of the pandemic.

They insisted New Yorkers were reeling from soaring rents, food costs and other expenses — coupled with the federal and state government ending eviction moratoriums and payments offered during the height of the COVID-19 era.

Two and half years later, the pandemic excuses no longer fly, critics said. The DSS declined to elaborate on why it believes the problem has worsened or address critics’ concerns that it will become even bleaker under Mamdani.

“This administration is focused on using every available tool to advance economic justice and better support New Yorkers in need,” the agency said in a statement.

It also touted 70% of cash-assistance applications are being processed on time this year — a huge improvement from the Adams administration that saw its numbers dip as low as a paltry 14% from July through October of 2022.

Monthly caseloads this year have begun to slightly drop, including May, which saw 576,123 New Yorkers pocket handouts — or 26,391 less than the same month a year earlier, the agency added.

When Rudy Giuliani became mayor in 1994, he inherited an even bigger welfare crisis, and the number of New Yorkers getting monthly cash assistance soared to record 1,160,593 by the time he implemented a series of reforms in March 1995.

He made getting recipients back to work a priority — especially those who preferred collecting checks to clocking in at a job — and pushing welfare reform initiatives like his Work Experience Program, where many recipients helped clean city parks and streets and answered phones in city offices in exchange for temporary assistance.

‘Tax the rich’ agenda

The monthly numbers plummeted to 497,100 midway through 2001, Giuliani’s final year in office, and the downward spiral continued under his successor, Michael Bloomberg. In December 2013, Bloomberg’s last month in office, 346,398 New Yorkers collected unemployment checks.

In May 2014, under then-Mayor de Blasio, the city’s monthly rolls dropped to 336,403 — its lowest since the early 1960s. However, the monthly recipients rose to 384,523 by the time de Blasio left office at the end of 2021 in part because of policies the far-left pol implemented to help simplify the application process and the economic strains of the pandemic.

The rise in welfare checks comes as Mamdani this week continued to push his “tax-the-rich” agenda — even after the nonpartisan Citizens Budget Commission released a bombshell analysis on Monday showing New York lost the largest share of US millionaires of any state since 2010, resulting in a nearly $11 billion loss in much-needed yearly local tax revenue.

The $2.71 billion Mamdani budgeted for this fiscal year comes from federal, state and city funds.

Stephen Eide, a senior fellow at conservative think tank Manhattan Institute who tracks public assistance, said New Yorkers “should be concerned about welfare growing” further under Mamdani.

“First, you do need a growing economy to move people off the rolls and into jobs,” he said. “A growing economy takes capital. The mayor’s socialist animus towards billionaires begs the question of where that capital’s supposed to come from.

“Second, I don’t think we know that the mayor even thinks historically high welfare rolls is a policy failure, as all his predecessors did. In housing, Mamdani’s definition of policy is getting as many people on subsidized housing as possible.

“If Mamdani thinks the case of cash assistance is different, he hasn’t said.”

City funds the next fix

Helayne Seidman for the NY Post

Cash for used needles

By RICH CALDER

The Mamdani administration has quietly made permanent a controversial pilot program that pays junkies cash for turning in used needles — a move critics contend will only encourage illegal drug use.

The city's massive $126 billion budget for the new fiscal year that began July 1 includes $3 million to retain the Health Department's Community Syringe Redemption Program, which pays the public 20 cents per syringe.

The announcement was made with little fanfare in budget documents the agency provided to the City Council on June 30, shortly before members approved the mayor's first spending plan.

Addiction Response Resources, a nonprofit that launched a similar program in Boston in 2020, will continue to operate the Big Apple's program through an $11.1 million contract that runs through the end of next year.

$10 a day

Participants can return up to 50 used syringes per day — collecting $10 — by dropping them at eight designated sites: five in The Bronx, and one each in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens.

There are no current plans to expand the program, which attempts to get hazardous syringes off city streets, parks and other property. It was initially approved as a pilot through legislation backed by far-left City Council members in 2022 and officially began in March 2025.

The program is being paid for through more than $189 million in settlement funds the city secured from major opioid manufacturers and distributors.

'Side hustle'

Councilwoman Joann Ariola (R-Queens) ripped the initiative, saying the settlement cash "should all be going toward addiction treatment services — not for paying users to turn in their needles for cash.

"All this is doing is putting money in the pockets of addicts, so they can continue to fuel their habits, rather than helping them break free of their disease."

More than 2.3 million needles have been collected through the program since it began as a pilot nearly 16 months ago, according to the Health Department. During its first year, $292,000 in cash was handed out to more than 1,700 participants, officials said.

Some admitted drug users hailed the news — but pined for more drop-off sites and no limits on how many syringes they could bring.

"It's definitely a side hustle for me. Yeah, definitely!" crowed Tamia Wright, 43, after returning needles at Walter Gladwin Park in The Bronx on Thursday. "Right now, I'm gonna buy some weed with [the earnings] and cigarettes."

Illegal drug peddlers

By J.C. RICE, ADRY TORRES, RICH CALDER and SHANE GALVIN

VapoRub
Pfizer
VIAGRA
100mg
OPEN
PUSH DOWN & TURN
CLOSE

BAD MEDICINE: A 10-block section in Washington Heights features vendors illegally selling a cornucopia of pills smuggled in from the Dominican Republic. "Someone is going to die from this," warned Councilwoman Joann Ariola.

SHUT DOWN I.C.E.
917-965-2999
7LEAF CONVENIENCE
ELITE EYE CARE

J.C. Rice

A half-mile section of Washington Heights has been transformed into an open-air prescription drug bazaar, with brazen vendors illegally peddling painkillers, erectile dysfunction pills, and an array of other meds, The Post has learned.

The sprawling street pharmacy stretches across 10 square blocks, in and around West 179th to West 183rd streets and St. Nicholas Avenue with at least 20 vendors showcasing their wares in loose blister packs, boxes and bottles strewn across dingy folding tables.

"Is it for an adult? You can take up to three a day until they're all gone," barked a vendor selling blister packs of the antibiotic amoxicillin for $5 a sheet.

"It's for phlegm, for the throat. Or one in the morning and one at night," she advised, standing next to a busy bus stop on West 181st Street and St. Nicholas.

A shopper who saw the pills chimed in with approval. "Those are really good! They're powerful stuff. When there's an infection, it cures it. When I give it to my grandson, I give him three a day!"

Amoxicillin was among the alarming cornucopia of pills available this week, including: erectile dysfunction meds Viagra and Cialis; Cataclofen Plus, for pain and inflammation; and antibiotic Ampicillin.

''Script for disaster'

"Someone is going to die from this, I have no doubt," warned Councilwoman Joann Ariola (R-Queens).

"Who knows what's actually in the things being peddled here? This is a prescription for disaster. Where is the NYPD with this, and why is the Mamdani administration allowing this to go on?"

The Spanish-speaking sellers arrive at about 9 a.m. every morning with product in wheeled carts, set up their tables and umbrellas, and sit outside until about 6 p.m.

The vendors buy the drugs in the Dominican Republic, where many can be purchased over the counter, and smuggle them in to Gotham to sell for profit.

Occasionally there are hiccups.

"I once brought two boxes of Ampicillin, but they seized and confiscated them at the airport. Some people manage to get them through, others don't," said one of the several vendors who spoke to The Post and declined to give his name.

On a good day, the Washington Heights vendors can bring home $300 — or more, they said.

How much profit they make is up to the individual sellers.

Pain med Cataclofen Plus, for example, sells for just $0.09 per pill at popular Dominican Republic chain Farmacias Los Hidalgos, but costs $10 for four pills on St. Nicholas.

"There are medicines that cost $10. Let's take 1000 mg Ampicillin, for example. You might pay $7 or $8 [in the Dominican Republic] for it, depending. You ask for $10 [in New York], and they offer $8 — it varies. But if they offer $8, you might make a dollar or 50 cents in profit," said another hawker.

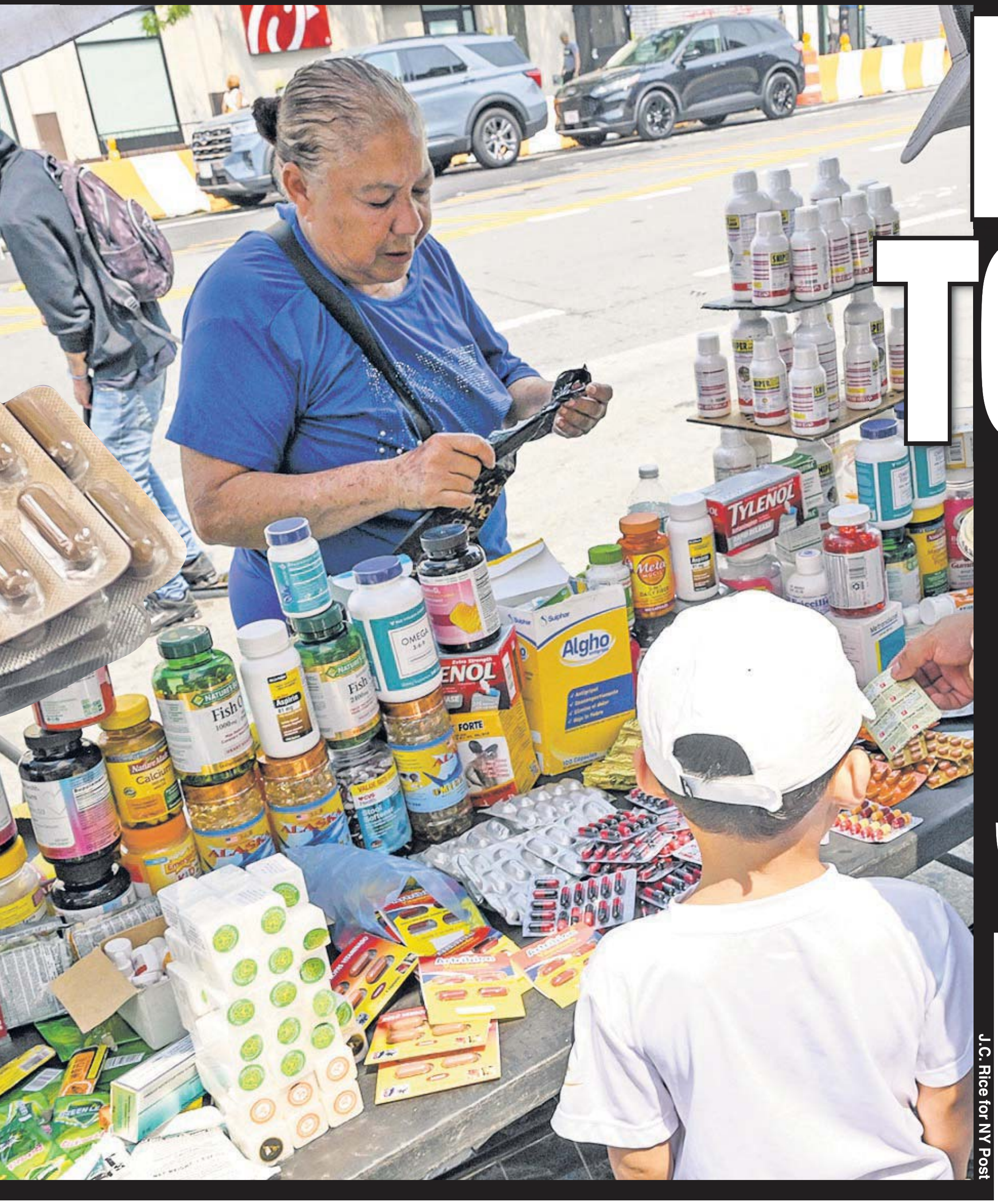
The feds targeted prescription drug pushers in the nabe over a decade ago. In 2012, the Justice Department prosecuted 16 prescription pill peddlers in Washington Heights when gangs were operating as "street-corner pharmacists" between West 156th and West 158th streets.

No fear

Today's sellers have no fear of being uprooted from the drug market, which has existed in varying forms over the years but exploded under the Mamdani administration, under fire for its

turn nabe into open-air Rx pill market

PHARMA TO TABLE ON THE STREET



J.C. Rice for NY Post

hands-off approach to the blocks-long homeless encampment between the Intrepid Museum and the Jacob Javits Center.

Occasional enforcement action occurs, but another vendor shrugged it off as just the cost of doing business.

"Just leave [the products] all behind and walk away," the vendor said with a laugh.

This week, a Post reporter observed NYPD officers walking past at least nine tables crowded with illegal prescription drugs without taking any action.

Residents said they were disgusted by the increasing sense of lawlessness in the neighborhood, whose 34th Precinct has seen an overall drop in major crimes, but where robbery is up 13%, assaults are up 14% and burglaries up 9% in the past year, police data show.

'Times have changed'

"I really find it surprising because regardless of what, it's a drug," said one woman about the lack of enforcement.

"I find a lot of things strange — there's a whole bunch of cops around and people are selling medicine. People are smoking weed up and down the street. It's like, wow, OK. Times have really changed."

The woman, who gave her first name as Dawn, continued: "I would never buy it. I would never buy any medications unless it's from a pharmacy."

The Department of Sanitation is the lead agency for street vendor enforcement. Unlicensed street vendors can be hit with $250 for their first violation, with subsequent violations costing $1,000 each plus another $250 for each day out of compliance.

Selling prescription drugs without a valid license is a Class D felony in the state of New York which can result in up to seven years in prison.

Illegally importing and peddling prescription drugs from abroad is a federal and state crime, and the penalties can range from $1,000 to $250,000 in fines and 1 to 20 years in prison.

A manager of a West 181st pharmacy warned against taking any of the al fresco meds.

'Public health risk'

"I have seen some diabetes medicines, prescription items. They are not keeping the medicines at a particular temperature. It is definitely bad for the people," the licensed worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

"I have seen Jardiance 25 milligrams on St. Nicholas. This is hazardous," he said of the powerful diabetes drug.

"Regulators come here and ask for a thousand things because we are a pharmacy. We have to comply with this rule, this rule, that rule. The same people then go on the street, they see bad things and they don't do anything," he said.

The neighborhood's lefty Councilwoman Carmen De La Rosa (D-Manhattan) has pushed to allow street vendors to occupy even more space on the curbs of her neighborhood.

In 2024, she introduced a bill to radically change how city sidewalks are regulated — including allowing vendors to set up in the middle of sidewalks — but it failed to gain enough support and died in a committee. She did not return a request for comment.

Her colleague, Councilman Frank Morano (R-Staten Island), ripped the prescription pill flea market as a striking public health disaster.

"When New Yorkers are buying prescription drugs from folding tables on the sidewalk instead of licensed pharmacies, we've crossed the line from street vending into a public health and public safety failure," said Morano.

He added: "This isn't just an illegal street market; its a public health risk, because there is no way for consumers to know whether what they're buying is safe, authentic, or appropriate for them."

Reps for Mamdani did not return messages.

New doc probes 1996 Flight 800 tragedy

30 YEARS LATER: A new documentary takes a skeptical look at the official findings on the explosion of TWA Flight 800 (right, the forensic probe).

AFP via Getty Images

Another culprit?

By GEOFF EARLE

A terror group from Egypt told the FBI it was responsible for downing TWA Flight 800 and killing all 230 people aboard, according to newly surfaced FBI records featured in a new documentary marking the 30th anniversary of the tragedy.

An explosive claim buried in a trove of newly obtained Freedom of Information Act documents is reviving decades-old questions about whether a missile or bomb brought down the Boeing 747-100 off Long Island on July 17, 1996.

Among the records obtained by the transparency nonprofit Judicial Watch is a New York teletype dated two days after the crash, case file 265A-NY-259028: "FBI headquarters received faxes generated from Cairo claiming credit for the destruction of the aircraft," the cable states.

Suit filed

The document does not name the terror group or otherwise provide an assessment by investigators at the time of the veracity of its claim to have brought down the jet. A 14-month FBI and Joint Terrorism Task Force probe, along with a four-year National Transportation Safety Board investigation, ultimately rejected that theory.

But its existence is prompting a series of questions from Judicial Watch, which filed suit in federal court last week against the NTSB to get more information and whose findings are featured in a new 45-minute documentary, "Judicial Watch Investigates TWA 800 — 30 Years Later," which debuted Saturday on YouTube.

"Let's see the faxes. Did you pursue it? To what degree? Was it a fraudster? Was it legitimate?" asked the group's chief investigator, Chris Farrell, who has spent years trying to untangle the evidence.

"That's pretty alarming considering there was a massive effort to swat that theory down back in '96," he added. "Cairo at that point was a hotbed for all kinds of militant Islamist supremacists."

TWA Flight 800 departed JFK Airport at 8:19 p.m., bound for Paris, and blew up 12 minutes after take off over the Atlantic Ocean near East Moriches, NY.

All 18 crew and 212 passengers died instantly.

GRETZKY TO SIGN WITH RANGERS
NEW YORK POST
DAILY & 25¢ SUNDAY
LATE CITY FINAL
It looks like a
BOMB
Feds believe it was hidden in bag stowed in cargo hold

Another partially redacted line states that "one of the crew on board flight 800, working as a flight attendant was [redacted]."

The reason for the redaction isn't known but James Kallstrom, the FBI New York field office chief who was placed in charge of the probe, was friends with a fellow agent whose wife was a member of the crew on the flight.

The NTSB determined after its investigation that the "probable cause" of the accident was "an explosion of the center wing fuel tank (CWT) resulting from ignition of the flammable fuel/air mixture in the tank."

The probe couldn't determine the source of ignition, but said the "most likely" culprit was a spark caused by a short circuit.

Not buying it

The FBI dropped its probe in 1997, with then-assistant FBI Director Kallstrom telling reporters: "Following 16 months of unprecedented investigation we must now report that no evidence has been found which would indicate that a criminal act was the cause."

Another document obtained through one of the group's 13 FOIA requests is a February 1997 internal FBI memo for briefing family members more than six months after the event that references the "three most likely theories" for the cause of the explosion — the bomb theory, the missile theory and mechanical failure.

"Despite a wealth of circumstantial evidence indicating that the aircraft was struck by a missile fired from a sea-borne platform, the exact cause of the explosion remains a mystery," it states.

Numerous witnesses said they saw streaks of light before the explosion.

A CIA video simulation said witnesses were seeing burning, leaking fuel.

The Post has reached out to the FBI and CIA for comment.

Farrell refuses to accept the official explanation.

"I can tell you that the official explanation — this guess that a spark of unknown origin somehow ignited the center fuel tank is preposterous," he said.

Lefty 'Squad' pol hub's 'dead body' woe

Boston homicide detectives are investigating after a body was found Saturday at a suburban two-unit rental property owned by lefty "Squad" Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's husband, according to a new report.

Police were dispatched to the property in Boston's Mattapan neighborhood shortly before 2 p.m. after receiving an "investigate person call," the Boston Globe reported, citing police rep Officer James Moccia,

The body was found in the area of the home, according to Moccia.

The situation at the seven-bedroom property in Malta Street was described as a "death investigation," according to another police spokesperson, Sgt. Detective John Boyle.

A neighbor, who identified herself as Cherill, told the Boston paper the property was raided by Boston police two months ago.

According to city records, the home is owned by Pressley's felony-convicted husband Conan Harris and was valued this year at more than $919,000.

Representatives for Pressley couldn't immediately be reached for comment by The Post, and declined to comment to the Boston outlet.

Ella Morrison

'Mother orbs' UFO still gov't mystery

Science advisers are offering conventional explanations for some of the sightings of mysterious orbs of light reported in the Trump UFO files — but insist one incredible encounter is completely unexplainable.

Dr. Avi Loeb, head of the UAP Science Advisory Council, has theorized that many of the reported sightings of glowing orbs could be plasmas which are the byproduct of man-made lasers.

But a 2023 sighting of orange and red orbs witnessed near a secured military facility in the western US by federal intelligence officer still can't be explained.

Council member Adm. Tim Gallaudet agrees that the "mother orbs" sighting is one of chief concern.

Shane Galvin

SECOND EDITION

Ilhan's ICE vid slammed

"Squad" Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) boasted that Minnesota liberals "defeated ICE's racist terror campaign" in a cringey video trying to hop on a new TikTok-like trend — but the embattled lefty was swiftly roasted for her efforts.

Plopped into a seat, "The Squad" member (above) adjusted her blazer and fidgeted with a microphone as if she were about to be interviewed in the 10-second clip she shared Wednesday on Facebook.

Omar, 43, took a deep breath as dramatic instrumental music played in the background.

"Me preparing for the documentary on how we defeated ICE's racist terror campaign in Minnesota," she wrote in a text overlay on the video.

Omar's stab at the viral documentary trend — where people act as if they are giving a confessional in a documentary — elicited groans.

"This is so cringe. Everything about this little clip has been ripped off," one man raged on X.

Omar and ICE did not immediately return The Post's requests for comment.

Sonya Gugliara

Getty Images (2)

Tighter security for journos' 2nd dinner

DO OVER: First Lady Melania and President Trump at April's White House Correspondents Dinner. The rescheduled fete will be at the DC Waldorf (inset).

By GEOFF EARLE

President Trump's return to the White House Correspondents' Dinner next week after an April assassination attempt will come with a dramatically tightened security operation, including digital tickets, a smaller venue and fewer opportunities for uninvited guests to slip inside.

The rescheduled July 24 event at the Waldorf Astoria in Washington will not only forgo traditional printed passes for digital ones, but the event will no longer feature the sprawling cocktail receptions where virtually anyone could blend into the crowd.

The Waldorf ballroom holds roughly 1,000 guests, less than a quarter of the Washington Hilton's capacity, making it easier for the Secret Service and other security to vet attendees.

"We have confidence in the security plan for this event, and we've secured that site before," service spokesman Tom Lynch told The Post.

The heightened precautions come after alleged gunman Cole Thomas Allen, a Washington Hilton hotel guest during the April 25 confab, was able to enter near the ballroom before authorities say he attempted to assassinate the president.

Allen made a three-night reservation from April 24 to April 26 at the Hilton, according to the US Attorney's Office for DC. He traveled by train from Los Angeles, and ran through a security checkpoint armed with a 12-gauge pump action shotgun and .38 caliber pistol.

Horrified guests crouched under their dinner tables for protection.

Officials confident

In just one of the security failures at the April dinner, a police dog appears to have gotten a whiff of the would-be assassin, only to be pulled away seconds before Allen sprang into action.

The threat to Trump, outlined in Allen's bizarre manifesto, is far from gone, but authorities are confident the massive security envelope in place for the redo dinner will hold.

A security firm has been brought in to screen visitors, and only those who get through with valid tickets will make their way toward magnetometers operated by the service, according to officials.

With the new venue and clamped down security, one thing will remain the same: mentalist Oz Pearlman will be performing.

Pearlman was in mid-trick when shots were fired outside the ballroom in April, and he canceled a scheduled appearance on the "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show two days later.

The Washington Waldorf Astoria was previously the Trump International Hotel, and the president dined there regularly during his first term.

gearle@nypost.com

Mich. Dem's gun hypocrisy

Michigan Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed, who has questioned whether police officers should carry guns, spent years on the campaign trail protected by an armed guard, his former security director said.

El-Sayed (inset) has faced renewed scrutiny after a 2020 University of Michigan video surfaced showing him questioning the need for armed officers.

Jordan Domingue, a Marine veteran who served as El-Sayed's security director, accused the candidate of hypocrisy after the clip circulated online.

"I protected this man with a gun for two years," he raged on X.

Domingue resigned in January, saying his boss was unfit for the Senate.

El-Sayed's campaign did not return a request for comment. *Gabrielle Fahmy*

Don, let me get to US final

A former player on Spain's only World Cup-winning squad is asking President Trump to let him enter the US for Sunday's final in New Jersey.

Joan Capdevila, a defender on the team that won the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, called on Trump in an X post Friday to show him some mercy after officials denied his request for a non-visa entry to the US.

ESTA, short for Electronic System for Travel Authorization, lets citizens of 42 countries, including Spain, visit the US for up to 90 days without a visa. But travel to countries like Iran can trigger a denial.

Capdevila, who played 15 seasons in La Liga, told Spanish media outlets that the decision to ban his entry into the US stemmed from his appearance in a match between former La Liga players and an Iranian team in Tehran in 2016.

Capdevila hoped to join other members of the 2010 Spanish side at MetLife Stadium for the clash against Argentina. *Adry Torres*

BEST OF THE 'PITCH' MEN

HIGH $CORE: David Beckham turned out to be one of the biggest winners of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, earning an estimated $25 million hawking everything from beer to soft drinks to coffee makers and much, much more. He also received a Hollywood Walk of Fame star timed to the event.

Stella Artois / YouTube; Lenovo; davidbeckham / TikTok; The Home Depot / YouTube; Pepsi Global / Youtube; hughandmeg / TikTok; lisandru_susini / Tiktok; Getty Images (6); Adobe Stock

On and off the World Cup fields, it's not just soccer teams who won & lost

By GAVIN NEWSHAM

Winner: David Beckham

WHILE many brands cashed in on the World Cup, no one played the commercial game better than David Beckham.

The former England captain, 51, turned the tournament into his own marketing master class, reportedly banking an estimated $25 million through partnerships that saw him hawking Adidas, Pepsi, Home Depot, Verizon, McDonald's, Lay's, Bank of America, Lenovo, Ninja and Stella Artois (notably the official sponsor of the World Cup).

He was everywhere: in commercials, in interviews talking up the competition and in VIP suites alongside wife Victoria, whose impassive reactions at games broke the internet.

"This has been a great World Cup for branding and especially for David Beckham, who has really stood out," says Rick Burton, Emeritus Professor of Sport Management at Syracuse University. "He is a commercial juggernaut."

And the very fact that the World Cup was held in America — and proved such a success — is a win for Beckham, who has been determined to make soccer relevant here. By first joining the LA Galaxy as a player in 2007, then becoming co-owner of MLS's Inter Miami and convincing superstar Lionel Messi to sign on, he has done more for American soccer than virtually anyone else in the modern game.

Becks even got his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, timed to the second day of the World Cup and with a green (rather than red) carpet that looked just like turf.

"When David arrived, Major League Soccer had 13 teams," his good pal Tom Cruise said during the ceremony. "Today, it has 30. This is partly down to a pledge Beckham made . . . The first was to win championships for the Galaxy. The second was to help build soccer in the US . . . There is no Messi in this league, if not for David Beckham," Cruise said.

Winner: America's reputation

Before kick-off, the doubters lined up to question the Cup being held across nine states (as well as Mexico and Canada). Would a nation accused of treating soccer as a second-tier sport embrace the biggest tournament on the planet?

The answer was an emphatic yes. From Atlanta to Seattle, New York to Los Angeles, foreign fans fell for American hospitality, taking to social media to celebrate everything from air-conditioning ("It's like stepping into a fridge!") to big cars, truck stops — particularly Buc-ee's — and fast food.

DRINK IT IN: Pepsi was one of the brands that got a boost from Cup ads.

They *really* fell in love with the food: Raising Cane's. Chick-fil-A. Trader Joe's. Barbecue. "The mind-blowing revelation that is the Cheesecake Factory."

And the MVP? Ranch dressing.

One England supporter told the BBC he spent $300 shipping 20 bottles of it back to the UK: "I'll be having it on my roast dinners and fish and chips.

Winner: Mexico fans

Mexico didn't lift the trophy — England ended their run in the quarter-finals — but El Tri's supporters won the popularity contest.

The "Green Wave" turned Mexico City's Estadio Azteca and Estadio Guadalajara into the loudest, most colorful arenas of the competition, drowning out rival supporters and outnumbering opposition fans five to one.

The obsession went far beyond the stands. According to Statista, around 92% of Mexico's population followed the tournament, making them the most engaged nation in the World Cup.

And that passion became a commercial juggernaut.

While exact figures remain undisclosed, Adidas revealed Mexico's shirt was the tournament's biggest seller, beating traditional powerhouses including finalists Spain and Argentina.

"It's one of the clearest real-time reads we've seen on how a team's performance translates into consumer demand," said Brendan Dunne, senior director of customer community and engagement at online marketplace StockX.

Winner: Erling Haaland

Erling Haaland arrived in America as a soccer wrecking ball — a 6-foot-5 goal machine built to leave defenders in pieces.

He left as something even bigger: a superstar fans felt they actually knew.

On social media, he shared his travels, fan encounters and the lighter side of life on the road. Nothing captured his new American love affair better than his shopping trips.

In Dallas, ahead of Norway's game against Ivory Coast, Haaland walked into Wild Bill's Western Store and embraced cowboy culture, buying a Stetson Brenham hat, Dan Post python boots and a T-shirt declaring: "Y'all Can Kiss My Dallas."

He also left with a $750 stuffed "Whiskey Raccoon" and two taxidermy squirrels costing $450 each.

Asked about his growing popularity in America, Haaland smiled: "I think it's a good thing because I like the Americans. I think they are kind of hilarious as well. They are funny. I like the way they are."

Winner: Retail brands

The expanded 48-team tournament delivered a global advertising bonanza, with sponsors fighting for a slice of football's biggest stage across television and social media, as well as in stadiums themselves. (And the new hydration breaks provided even more opportunity for commercials.)

Adidas had the advantage as official supplier of the match balls and providing the shirts of 14 nations, including finalists Argentina and Spain, not to mention using Lionel Messi as the face of its campaigns.

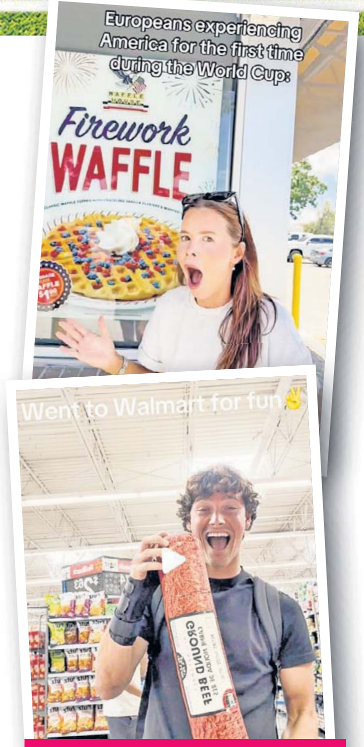
LSEG Analytics predicted Adidas would see 6.8% growth in quarterly revenues as a result, significantly higher than rivals Nike.

That's not to say Nike fared poorly.

As the manufacturer of 12 team kits at the World Cup, including the USA, France, Brazil and England, they sold 2.5 times as many as they did at the last tournament in Qatar in 2022.

They even sold out of USMNT shirts two weeks into the tournament as Mauricio Pochettino's team started the tournament impressively with wins against Paraguay and Australia. (But by the time Nike had restocked, the USA had been eliminated.)

Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Budweiser were all big winners but, according to YouGov research, Cafe Bustelo generated the highest marketing buzz among more than 2,000 tracked brands, ranking first for ad awareness, consumer conversation and purchase intent, all thanks to its "Game Face" campaign, when it turned its iconic yellow coffee cans into collectible World Cup merch.


Europeans experiencing America for the first time during the World Cup:

Went to Walmart for fun ✌

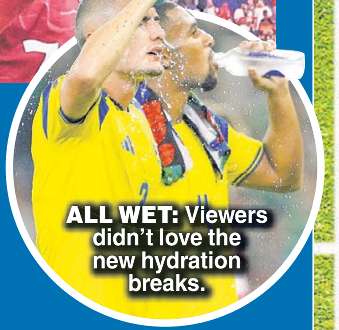
DELICIOUS: Foreign tourists got a taste of America's food and over-the-top consumer culture and fell hard for it all.

9
FIFA WORLD CUP
UNITED STATES|CANADA|MÉXICO

FAN FAVES: Norway's Erling Haaland became a sensation in the US, while Mexico's spirit was contagious.

AND THE LOSERS ...

AGE OLD PROBLEM: At 41, the legendary Cristiano Ronaldo looked mortal.



ALL WET: Viewers didn't love the new hydration breaks.

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Having won everything in the game except the World Cup, Cristiano Ronaldo wanted one more moment of immortality. But not even soccer's No. 1 perfectionist can outrun Father Time.

The Portuguese icon looked every one of his 41 years as he labored around the pitch. Yes, he scored three goals, but two were against the minnows of Uzbekistan and the other was a penalty against Croatia. His performances strengthened the argument of critics who said his place on the team was based on reputation rather than performance.

Portugal's brutal decision not to bench the legend for the greater good cost them dearly, and will tarnish his legacy.

HYDRATION BREAKS

With every match in Dallas, Houston and Miami played in conditions above 94 degrees, FIFA decided players needed protection.

The solution: mandatory three-minute hydration breaks midway through each half, giving players a chance to cool down and receive tactical instructions from coaches.

They quickly became a flashpoint.

To critics, the breaks effectively turned soccer into a four-quarter sport, shattering the game's natural rhythm, killing momentum and adding to the stop-start frustration already created by the Video Assistant Referee checking decisions made by the on-field referee.

CHRISTIAN PULISIC

This was supposed to be Pennsylvania-bred Christian Pulisic's coronation. It became his disappearing act.

Before the Cup began, his face loomed over billboards. He starred in blockbuster commercials alongside Lionel Messi. He was the golden boy, the captain, the player carrying the weight of a nation.

But Pulisic failed to score a single goal all tournament, before limping off with a lower-leg injury during the USMNT's 4-1 last-16 demolition by Belgium.

Captain America turned into Captain Invisible.

OUCH: USMNT's Christian Pulisic falls to a leg injury.

Zo: I'd like to bust Bibi

Wants a loophole

By KATHERINE DONLEVY
and RICH CALDER

Mayor Mamdani said he's desperately seeking a legal loophole to arrest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for alleged war crimes when he visits in NYC in September.

The Pro-Palestinian, Israel-hating socialist pol said in an interview published Saturday that it's unclear whether he has the authority to order the NYPD to arrest Netanyahu during the prime minister's expected trip to the Big Apple for the UN General Assembly — but is in an "active conversation" with the city's Law Department about the matter.

"I believe that Prime Minister Netanyahu belongs in The Hague," Mamdani bluntly told The New York Times, referring to the United Nations' International Court of Justice.

"He's a war criminal who has been charged by the International Criminal Court. And what you will find is that it is an opinion that is held by many purely because of what his actions have wrought over these last many years."

Mamdani — who has made accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza a focal point of a far-left ideology that helped propel him into the national spotlight — vowed during last year's campaign that, if elected mayor, he'd have Netanyahu arrested if he ever set foot in NYC.

He cited the International Criminal Court's 2024 arrest warrant for Netanyahu — which the US doesn't recognize.

However, Mamdani insisted during The Times interview that the city "won't be writing our own laws" to lock up the prime minister, who is seeking re-election.

"Whatever the law allows me to do in New York City, that's what we will do," he said.

Visit postponed

Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, fired back at the mayor on Saturday, slamming Mamdani for "failing to govern New York" by ignoring his mayoral responsibilities and instead "incit[ing] hostility and generat[ing] headlines by attacking the State of Israel."

"And if anyone should be arrested, it is @NYCMayor Zohran Mamdani," he said in a post on X.

Netanyahu is also expected to visit DC later this month to meet with President Trump.

He was initially scheduled to arrive this weekend, but postponed the visit after Sen. Lindsey Graham's funeral was pushed back to accommodate the flood of national and international dignitaries seeking to attend.

It would mark Netanyahu's first trip to Washington since the Iran war began in February.

Bam aide jet death lawsuit

The heartbroken family of a former Obama administration official claims catastrophic pilot errors — not turbulence — caused the crisis aboard a private jet that killed her in 2023.

Dana Hyde, 55, died after a Bombardier Challenger 300 suddenly pitched violently up and down shortly after taking off from New Hampshire that March.

Her horrified husband and teenage son were also onboard the Airshare-operated flight headed for Virginia and watched her get hurled from the floor to the ceiling, according to the lawsuit filed in a Massachusetts county court on Monday.

The jet made an emergency landing in Connecticut, and Hyde — who served as counsel to the 9/11 Commission and as a top official at the Office of Management and Budget under former President Barack Obama — was rushed to the hospital with fatal injuries, including head trauma, spine fractures and over a dozen broken ribs.

The family shot down "misleading" accounts that turbulence triggered the tragedy in the lawsuit against Airshare, Bombardier and the pilots.

Bombardier declined to comment, and Airshare did not return The Post's request for comment.

Sonya Gugliara

---

sailorbrinkleycook/Instagram

Smooth Sailor's summer

She's got the look! Sailor Brinkley Cook, the youngest of legendary model and Hamptons royalty Christie, enjoys the attention of summer beach paparazzi.

Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

Ad-Vance-ing conspiracies

NEXT IN LINE: Polling as the top contender for the 2028 Republican presidential nomination, Vice President JD Vance has espoused troubling anti-Israel views that align with conspiracy theories.

AFP via Getty Images

FROM the moment in 2024 when Donald Trump picked JD Vance to be his running mate, I believed it was a good move. Vance, a first-term Ohio senator, was popular among Trump's base, which is why he was given the task of concentrating on Midwest swing states during the campaign.

His surgical dismantling of blowhard Tim Walz during the veep debate was a thing of beauty, and it bears remembering that Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin all flipped for Trump.

While the president clearly deserves most of the credit, Vance certainly did his part.

I've also viewed Vance as a solid vice president. He's been loyal, smart, calm and persistent, making him an effective opponent for the leftist media cabal during interviews.

For those and other reasons, it's not a surprise that most early polling has him leading the GOP field to be Trump's successor and win the 2028 nomination. The very capable and savvy Secretary of State Marco Rubio is running a close second.

'Who is this guy?'

Alas, the appearance of smooth sailing in all things Vance came to a crashing end with his shocking interview with Joe Rogan last week. His comments on Israel alone have me asking, "Who is this guy?"

And not in a nice way.

He was so bad that I entertained the wild possibility he was floating the idea of switching to the Democratic Party.

That's because his acid comments about the Jewish state echoed some antisemitic themes, and happened to come on the same day that half of House Dems took the extraordinary step of voting to end all aid to Israel, military and humanitarian.

The move failed because of strong Republican support for the Jewish state. Yet at the same time, here was the Republican vice president of an administration that has twice joined Israel in a war against Iran bad mouthing our crucial ally in ways that rhyme with the conspiracy theories of the Dems' socialist wing.

Specifically, Vance accused people "within Israel's system" of trying to manipulate American public opinion to prolong the war with Iran "indefinitely."

That is not far from the false charge by The New York Times and others that Trump was persuaded by sinister Israeli pressure to enter the war, as if he had never said he would not allow Iran to get a nuclear bomb.

Vance also bemoaned what he called a heavily funded Israeli campaign to derail the negotiations with Tehran, which he is now leading.

"I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that there have been people within the Israeli government who are trying to, like, actually shift us away from [negotiations] because they want to continue the military campaign," Vance said.

"Again, not towards any objective, but just indefinitely."

Addressing those criticizing his approach, presumably in Israel, he said: "Go to hell. I'm going to do what I have to do for the American people. I represent Americans first."

That was bad enough, but he wasn't finished. Vance also wandered deep into the woods of Jeffrey Epstein theories, admitting he was among the "Epstein conspiracy theorists."

He proved it by declaring, without offering any evidence, that the dead pedophile "had connections to the upper, the highest levels, of American intelligence. He clearly had connections to the highest levels of Israeli intelligence," Vance told Rogan.

Deep-web echoes

Although he cited the known Epstein association with Ehud Barak, a former Israeli prime minister, he didn't note that Barak insisted he engaged in no wrongdoing and said he regrets the relationship with Epstein.

Vance didn't stop there, saying, strangely that "As much as I know, you know, Prime Minister Netanyahu, not a particularly popular person in the United States of America right now, Epstein seemed to be connected to the elements of the Israeli deep state that were left of center."

His remarks are not far from the belief in deep-web dungeons that Epstein was a Mossad agent.

On a roll, Vance added, that, in America, Epstein was "connected across the board, he had Republican friends, he had Democratic friends. He had much deeper connections to the Israeli left of center than right of center."

He wisely did not mention his boss, whose long relationship with Epstein has convinced Dems there is political profit to be made by lobbing endless accusations about the president.

The closest Vance came was when he confessed the administration "absolutely screwed up" its communications of the Epstein files, and singled out former Attorney General Pam Bondi.

He said Bondi's claim about having binders of documents on her desk "made people mistrust the entire effort," adding that Bondi "overstated what we had and what we didn't have."

The incident surely played a key role in Trump booting Bondi.

Vance's turn against Israel reminds me of a conversation several months ago with a friend who is active in Jewish causes. A longtime donor and supporter of Vance, he mentioned reports he was hearing that the veep was sounding like Tucker Carlson, a close Vance friend who broke with Trump and routinely denounces Israel.

Although I knew that Carlson had lobbied Trump to make Vance his running mate, my friend's warning about a creeping anti-Israel bias by Vance didn't sound right to me.

That was my mistake.

Ridiculous comparison

With Trump making near-daily headline-grabbing comments on the war, I missed that Vance last month used a ridiculous comparison to describe Israel's conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon. He called it a "chicken and egg problem" and said all nations have a right to defend themselves.

Stop right there — Hezbollah is not a nation. It is an occupying force of terrorists in Lebanon to further Iran's goal of eliminating Israel, and that's why Israeli forces are trying to root it out.

And that is why Israel objected to America's willingness to include its Hezbollah conflict in the cease-fire.

I would expect such an ignorant view from a Kamala Harris, but how could Trump's vice president not understand the essential facts?

The Rogan interview convinces me that Vance really has moved far along the Carlson path.

When it comes to Israel, he's closer to Dems than to the heart of the GOP.

For example, a Washington Free Beacon poll shows that likely Republican primary voters remain deeply supportive of the war and Trump's handling of it.

The outlet reported that those voters want a 2028 candidate who supports a strong US-Israel relationship by a margin of 57 percentage points. They also want one who forcefully denounces antisemitism by a margin of 52 percentage points.

As of now, JD Vance is not that guy.

Sailor's students seeing stars

Page Six®

Ian Mohr
imohr@nypost.com

Oli Coleman
ocoleman@nypost.com
Mara Siegler
msiegler@nypost.com
Carlos Greer
cgreer@nypost.com

ONE small sketch for man . . .

A veteran of the 1980s Soho art scene is helping prepare people to go to Mars.

Reid Stowe, who was pals with Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, **Julian Schnabel**, **Anthony Haden-Guest** and other staples of the downtown art explosion, also became an elite endurance sailor.

And it turns out the mental rigors of spending over a thousand days at sea may be the best way to prepare the mind for the voyage to the Red Planet.

"The seafarers of today provide a role model for the spacefarers of tomorrow," Stowe, 74, told Page Six.

The artist, who spent a record 1,152 consecutive days at sea without touching land, now takes aspiring astronauts, engineers and space scientists on ocean voyages designed to test the resilience, self-reliance and mental toughness needed for deep-space travel.

"In the space community it's called analog training," he explained. "You're not actually in space, but you're recreating many of the same physical and psychological challenges."

Unlike large ships, Stowe says a small sailboat leaves people exposed to isolation, confinement, uncertainty and the constant need to solve problems with limited resources — conditions he believes closely mirror life aboard a spacecraft headed for Mars.

In fact, Stowe believes sea voyages and missions to Mars are so similar — in both duration and the psychological challenges they present — that he named his record-setting expedition "Mars Ocean Odyssey."

Many of the people he trains hope to work in space exploration as engineers, astrobiologists or future astronauts.

According to Stowe, humans could reach Mars within the next 10 to 15 years — and he even believes he could still be around to captain the first crewed mission himself.

"I believe I am the most qualified person," he said.

Bash bases loaded

KEVIN Durant and **Rich Kleiman**'s media company Boardroom and the MLB threw a major party, with hosts Durant, Kleiman and **CC Sabathia** greeting a slew of boldfaced names at the Crane Club. The bash at the hot West Side private club also served as a celebration for Sabathia's oldest son, **Carsten**, who was just drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers. Former MLB players **Gary Sheffield**, **Shane Victorino**, **Jimmy Rollins**, **Dellin Betances**, **Jeremy Guthrie**, **Prince Fielder**, **Ryan Howard**, **Jason Kendall**, **Justin Upton** and **Chris Young** danced the night away while **Chase B** and **Zack Bia** took turns DJing.

In the 'Thick' of it

MICHELLE Buteau isn't going to be lounging around this summer. The comedian (above) will be doing press for the third and final season of her series "Survival of the Thickest," and then going on a European tour culminating in a Netflix special being filmed in her husband **Gijs van der Most**'s hometown of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Buteau is emotional about her show ending. "I feel like I built this beautiful house and now everyone is going," the "Late Night Whenever" podcast host told Page Six. "But the friendships will live on."

David Beckham and his 'spice for life' better half Victoria enjoy the afternoon in Nolita before Sunday's World Cup final in Jersey.

victoriabeckham/Instagram

'Just' having a nosh

JUSTIN and **Hailey Bieber** are continuing their Hamptons vacation and have been spotted dining all over town. The "Daisies" singer and Rhode beauty founder were seen eating at chic sushi spot Namiro in Southampton as well as Captain Jack's on the Coast, a seafood joint located on the water and frequented by locals. Biebs was also spotted at BuddhaBerry in Sag Harbor. Plus, the couple was seen at new eight-seat, no-reservation diner Babe's, along with their 23-month-old baby, **Jack Blues**. Last week, Page Six reported the couple grabbed pizza at Camp Rubirosa in East Hampton. Meanwhile, links spies say the former teen idol was golfing at Maidstone.

We hear

THAT **Jack White** kicked off the North American leg of his "Frozen Charlotte" tour . . . THAT singer **Radmila Lolly** wore one of her own designs to Wimbledon to celebrate her animal advocacy with her new Aksenyushkina Foundation . . . THAT **Paulina Porizkova**, who just married **Jeff Greenstein** in Italy, got wedding-ready with workouts using **Nofar Hagag**'s Nofar Method.

Cutting out labels

THIS NBA champ is becoming a little less baller. Knicks shooting guard **Josh Hart** says that he's bucked basketball's style trend by switching the Gucci loafers for sensible shoes. "Growing up, especially getting money for the first time, you go after name-brand things," Hart (above) told Haute Living. "You see guys with outfits that are just trash, but they're like, 'Yo, I got a Balenciaga T-shirt, I got Amiri jeans, Dolce Gabbana' — and they're naming their brands. And it's like, that's not it. Now, luxury is just what brings me joy and what I like. It's not about names anymore." He prefers Uggs and Rothy's. "People aren't going to look at that like, 'Oh, that's so cool.' But it's comfortable. It makes me feel good. That's more so what luxury is now," he said.

Marmont left legends dry

FORMER Vanity Fair columnist **George Wayne** has penned a piece for Hampton Sheet Magazine in which he recalls a wild stay at the Chateau Marmont's Suite 56 in April 1992 with star stylist **Kelly Cutrone**. "I was excited to be back in Hollywood, especially at the legendary Chateau Marmont. My 'Godmama' Ivana Trump was modeling in a charity fashion show for the French avant-garde designer Thierry Mugler," Wayne wrote. "Studying the pool . . . I immediately knew the glamorous, pale, ancient creature swathed in black — and wearing the biggest sunglasses — was the legendary downtown New York socialite and part-time fur designer, Larissa Jarzombek." He described greeting the "fashion dinosaur," who "whines" to a pal to order her a "how do you say it? A Bloody Mary," only to be told, "The hotel doesn't have a liquor license." "'In that case, I'll have a little wine,' Larissa whined further, allowing nothing or no one to impede her request." Wayne also met up with the onetime West Coast editor of Allure, "a funny, smart, and loony woman named Peggy Orr" who "had the sweetest dollops of vintage Hollywood gossip."

email us:
tips@PageSix.com

Page Six Hollywood

Hollywood Insights for Insiders.

4:01
◂ Gmail
Page Six Hollywood
agesix.com

Feb 11, 2026

By Ian Mohr

Welcome to Page Six Hollywood...

In today's newsletter, we have a mix of news that only P6H can provide!

Writer at Large **Tatiana Siegel** looks at the controversy surrounding **Casey Wasserman** after another recording artist exited his agency on Tuesday in the wake of the bombshell Epstein data dump, as well as his alleged feud with WME superagent **Ari Emanuel**.

We deployed Senior Columnist **Peter Kiefer** on a

Westside neighborhood eatery, Mar Vista's

If it's your business to stay in the know, Page Six Hollywood is a must:

- Exclusive reporting on the media & entertainment industries from an incredible team of reporters.
- Unparalleled insights on the worlds of media, entertainment, culture, deal-making, celebrity, real estate, politics and society.
- Daily newsletters, weekly podcasts and exclusive events to keep you in the know.

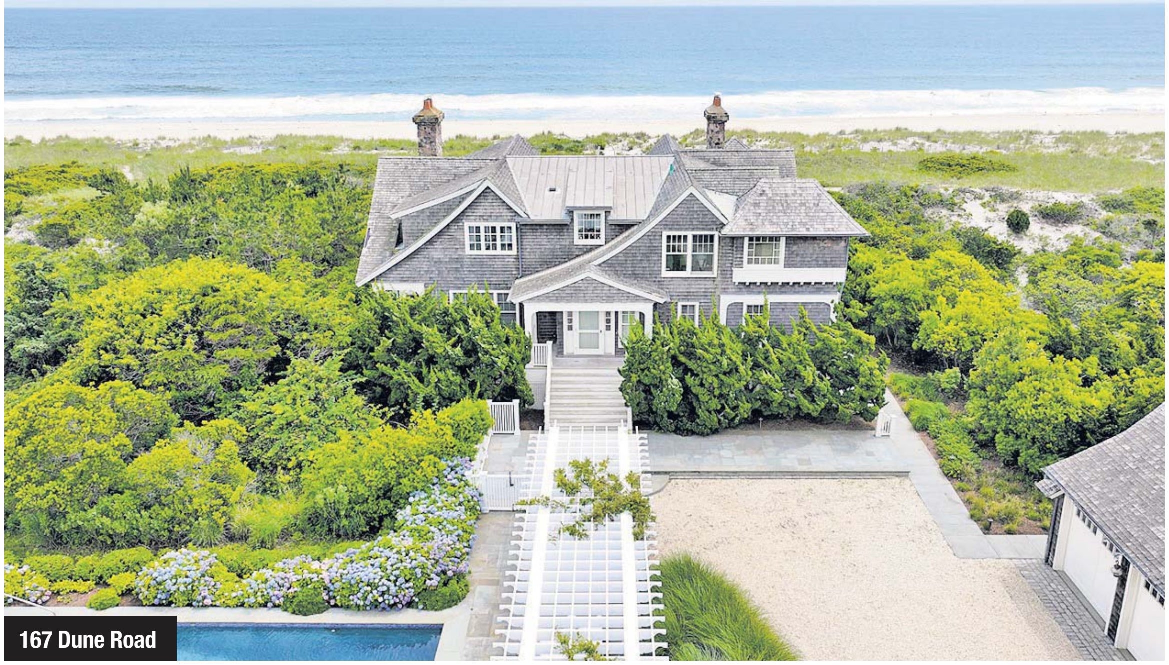
SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR FREE

FLOWCODE
PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM

Get FREE newsletter: PageSixHollywood.com

Gimme Shelter

JENNIFER GOULD



167 Dune Road

Courtesy Saunders & Associates

A sold-en opportunity for Rubin

HE'S a real Hamptons fanatic.

Billionaire Fanatics founder and CEO **Michael Rubin** (right), who just held his A-list White Party at his Hamptons beach mansion, is in contract to buy the house next door, Gimme Shelter has learned.

Both dwellings are on the ocean, on Dune Road in Bridgehampton.

The in-contract property asked $42.5 million for sale. It's not clear how much the final price will be.

The seller is a family foundation tied to New York real estate titan **Donald Zucker**.

"It's an iconic Hamptons home. It's traditional, old school and very beautiful," said the home's listing broker, **Jennifer C. Wilson**, of Saunders & Associates. Wilson declined to comment on the buyer.

While the deal has not yet closed, Rubin negotiated the use of the home for a week during the White Party — not for guests, but for security, a source said.

Built in 1994, the residence is a classic Francis Fleetwood-designed shingled home that was typical for the Hamptons until the new wave of modern beach house — such as the other one Rubin owns — was added to the mix.

It sits on 3.1 acres, with 300 feet of oceanfront and private beach access.

"It's one of the biggest lots on the street," Wilson said.

It's not clear what Rubin's plans are, as he could not be reached for comment. "For now," a source said, "he's going to keep the home the way it is. But he may want to build a larger home on the property more in line with his current home in the future."

As for that other spread, Rubin bought it in 2020 for $50.1 million — and that's where his famed party has been held in recent years. Guests at the most recent gathering included **Snoop Dogg**, **Martha Stewart**, **Tom Brady** and **Jay-Z**.

His forthcoming 4,200-square-foot property features five bedrooms, 5.5 baths and an elevator. On the main level, an open chef's kitchen and living room — anchored by a large fireplace — share panoramic views of the ocean and bay "from every window and door," according to the listing.

The living room opens to an oceanfront deck, while a den also overlooks the ocean and bay. There's also a main, or junior main, bedroom suite on this floor. It comes with a sitting area, a spa-like bath and a terrace.

Four guest bedrooms with ensuite baths are upstairs.

Outside, there's a pool, a summer kitchen, and a pool house with a bath and a wet bar, along with an outdoor shower.

It's a good time to purchase a new home. Rubin's company is on track for real success in 2026. Fanatics is slated to generate a staggering $13 billion in revenue this year, according to recent news reports.

Talk the 'tauk

AN oceanfront Montauk property next to **Robert De Niro'**s estate has listed for $22.5 million.

That money buys a "teardown" — an 1,800-square-foot "shack" built in 1960 — and sits on 1.1 acres, said listing broker **Kyle Rosko**, of Douglas Elliman.

The sale also comes with approved permits in place to build a large modern home on the ocean — bigger than what new town regulations allow.

"It would take two to three years to get the permits to build an oceanfront estate now — and it wouldn't be this big," Rosko said, adding that it is the perfect spot to build.

The property, on Montauk's oceanfront bluffs, stands at 250 Old Montauk Highway. De Niro (right), for his part, inherited his 1.5-acre property at 242 Old Montauk Highway from his artist father, who built it in the 1950s. De Niro has in the past tried, but failed, to get the town to approve plans to demolish and rebuild on that neighboring site.

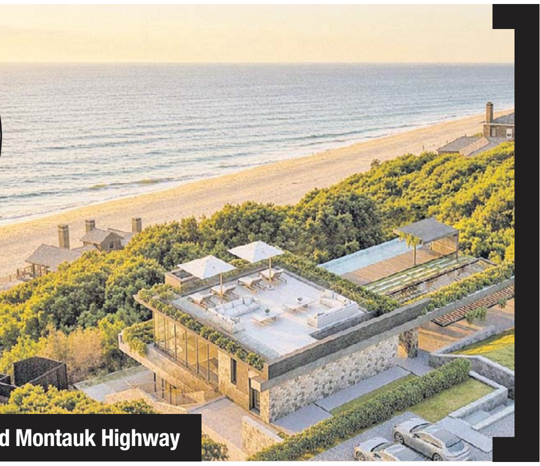
The approved plans for the listed lot call for a 7,100-square-foot dwelling, with four bedrooms, four baths and two powder rooms. That's not to mention the panoramic vistas.

"Every house on Old Montauk Highway is on a slope. That's why you get the most incredible views, just like Malibu," Rosko said.

Inside, the modern two-story home would be anchored by a chef's kitchen with a pantry, an oceanfront lounge, a formal dining room and a bar area, as well as plenty of terraces.

Outside, plans call for a sleek summer kitchen, a "custom fire feature," fashionable al-fresco dining areas, a pergola and a cantilevered infinity-edged pool with a swim-up bar at the edge of the bluff.

"This is a one-of-one that can never be replicated," Rosco said.



250 Old Montauk Highway

Jarrett Boor of Paperfarm Inc.

TIMELESS SOPHISTICATION MEETS BOCA RATON'S STORIED CHARM

An Elegant Residential Experience
in the Center of Downtown.

Elegantly Curated Two- and Three-Bedroom Residences

Mr. C RESIDENCES
Boca Raton, FL

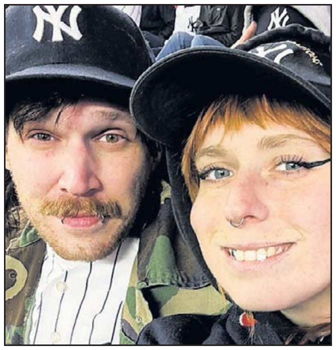
MR. C SALES GALLERY NOW OPEN
36 SE 3rd Street, Boca Raton, FL 33432

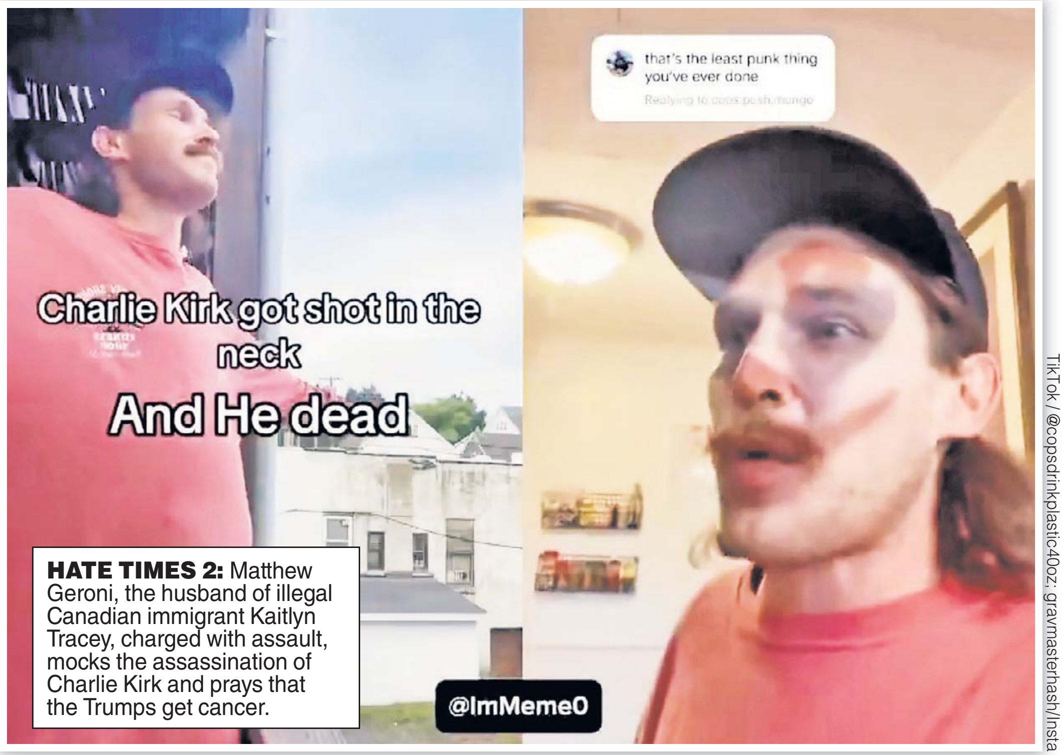
INQUIRE 561-944-8413
MrCResidencesBocaRaton.com

KEY INTERNATIONAL
WREI
DouglasElliman
Development Marketing

ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS, MAKE REFERENCE TO THIS BROCHURE AND TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A DEVELOPER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE. This is not intended to be an offer to sell, or solicitation to buy, condominium units to residents of any jurisdiction where prohibited by law, and your eligibility for purchase will depend upon your state of residency. Such an offering shall only be made pursuant to the prospectus (offering circular) for the condominium and no statements should be relied upon unless made in the prospectus or in the applicable purchase agreement. This project is being developed by KW SE 4th Street Boca LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Developer"), which has a limited right to use the trademarked names and logos of Mr. C. "Mr. C is not a partner, affiliate or otherwise related to the Developer. Additionally, Developer has a right to use the trade names, marks, and logos of licensors: (1) Key International ("Key"); and (2) Wexford Real Estate Investments ('WREI")". Any and all statements, disclosures and/or representations shall be deemed made by Developer and not by Key, WREI or any of its or their affiliates or by Mr. C and any purchaser agrees to look solely to Developer with respect to any and all matters relating to the marketing and/or development of the Condominium and with respect to the sales of units in the Condominium. FOR NEW YORK RESIDENTS: THE COMPLETE OFFERING TERMS ARE IN A CPS-12 APPLICATION AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFEROR. FILE NO. CO26-0054. All images and designs, plans, features and amenities depicted herein are based upon preliminary development plans and are subject to change without notice in the manner provided in the offering documents.

SPEW OF A KIND




Charlie Kirk got shot in the neck
And He dead
that's the least punk thing you've ever done
@ImMeme0

HATE TIMES 2: Matthew Geroni, the husband of illegal Canadian immigrant Kaitlyn Tracey, charged with assault, mocks the assassination of Charlie Kirk and prays that the Trumps get cancer.

TikTok / @copsdrinkplastic40oz; gravmasterhash/Insta

Immig's hubby targets Kirk, pols

By DAVID SPECTOR

The husband of the illegal immigrant from Canada arrested by ICE after allegedly slapping a patriotic teen on a Jersey Shore boardwalk mocked Charlie Kirk's assassination and threatened local pols, his twisted online posts show.

Matthew Geroni railed against local politicians to his over 142,000 followers in vile rants about gentrification in Ocean Grove, data centers and parking tickets in the June 17 video first reported by Shorenewsnetwork.

"Reminder that, if you work in local government, we know where you live," Geroni, 42, threatened on his TikTok — where he goes by the username Gravemasterhash.

He posted the disturbing diatribe less than a month before the caught-on-camera meltdown of his wife, nicknamed the "Maple Leaf Menace" by the Department of Homeland Security.

'Know where you live'

"[I] just think you should understand, the things you do have consequences, and everyone here knows where you live, we also know where you work . . . hell, we also know where your kids go to school," Geroni raved.

Geroni previously posted heinous videos wishing death on President Trump — and for Trump's entire family to be stricken with cancer.

In other sickening footage — posted by the X account @ImemetherforeIam — Geroni celebrated Kirk's murder.

Dressed in a pink sweatshirt, Geroni walks onto his balcony and outstretches his arms in gratitude as a caption that reads, "Charlie Kirk was shot in the neck and he dead" appears on screen.

He justified his sadistic post in another vid, in which he's wearing white, Joker-style makeup.

"They're [conservatives are] always laughing at us, so why wouldn't I laugh when one of them takes it to the f--king neck and is no more? Geroni ranted.

"The world is a lighter place now that he's gone, and I say 'ha ha ha.' "

Geroni's wife, Kaitlyn Tracey, 33, is being held at the Delaney Hall immigrant detention center in Newark following the July 3 attack at Point Pleasant Beach.

She was captured slapping a girl on video wearing a black "USA 250" tank top and delivering two rapid-fire blows to her body and head before flipping her victim the bird and slinking away.

DHS said she overstayed her visa after arriving in the US in 2024 and vowed she would soon be removed from the country.

"This illegal alien who assaulted a teenager has no business being in our country," DHS wrote in a scathing statement on X.

The controversial couple moved to Houston in October 2024 before relocating to The Garden State the following December, according to posts on Geroni's Facebook.

Geroni claimed to have quit his job at Wonderland Smoke Shop in 2021 to pursue content creation full-time, according to a Facebook post.

"As many of you know, I've been pursuing a career within this field for a few years with a lot of success," Geroni whined before later asking for donations to his Patreon creator account.

Hunting 'jersey' devils

Department of Homeland Security agents aren't just guarding the crowds at the World Cup final in New Jersey — they're also on the hunt for a flood of fake Messi and Mbappé jerseys.

The agency's investigators in Newark have seized 3,323 counterfeit jerseys worth an estimated $49,450 during the 39-day tourney and expect more before Sunday's finale, which is expected to draw roughly 80,000 fans — including President Trump — into MetLife Stadium.

Officials tracking the phony goods expect those numbers to skyrocket in the final frenzied hours before Argentina takes on Spain.

"They're shipping these jerseys where the teams are playing. They want to get the jerseys closest to the stadium," Customs and Border Protection spokesman Michael Scappechio told The Post. "We've got the finals here in our backyard here at MetLife. We're going to see a pickup."

One recent Newark Airport raid uncovered 1,100 fake kits packed inside an air cargo shipment.

Geoff Earle

Samaritans save granny pushed to tracks

A sicko shoved an elderly woman onto subway tracks in Midtown — where good Samaritans desperately rushed to her rescue Saturday morning.

The unidentified straphanger, 70, was on the northbound side of the 57th Street/Seventh Avenue station just before 11:30 a.m. when the maniac walked up behind her and tossed her onto the tracks — where she fell and cut her head, the NYPD said.

The suspect fled, but police captured him later the same day, cops said. Charges were pending against the maniac.

Commuters who witnessed the attack heroically jumped onto the tracks and pulled the woman back onto the platform.

She was taken to Cornell Hospital in stable condition.

Two women who work at a Midtown hotel and take the train daily from Astoria told The Post they pray to be safe on the train.

"I leave my life in the hands of God. Nothing else," said Maria Giannoutsos, 61.

She said you never know what direction the danger will come from.

Iljana Gilezan, 60, said she felt "scared" when she heard what had happened.

"You also have a lot of homeless on the train," she said. "But we have to go to work, so we have to take the train, and I'm always looking straight to the God to protect me."

Gilezan credited the good Samaritans, saying "it takes courage" to pull someone off the tracks.

Paul Corley, 67, said he thinks things are getting worse underground.

"Now that I'm getting older, I am more concerned about safety on the subway, and I try to stay away from the edge," the psychiatrist said. "This is a scary story, but also an inspiring story."

Shane Galvin, Marie Pohl

Kell gives Peacock the bird

Kelly Clarkson hasn't lost her cheeky sense of humor.

"I would get fired by NBC, but I don't work there anymore," Clarkson joked during her Friday night concert at Caesar's Palace Vegas, while stroking a fan's sequin jacket sleeve, before noting that she's "sad" her talk show ended because "it was a fun show," per Us Weekly.

The "American Idol" alum shared in February that she would be wrapping her eponymous talk show after seven seasons, noting it was not an "easy decision" but that she was "stepping away" to focus on her kids, whom she shared with her late ex-husband, Brandon Blackstock.

Blackstock died of cancer in August 2025 at age 48.

The couple settled their divorce in 2022 after years of contentious court battles.

Clarkson shared back in February that prioritizing their children following the death of their father felt "necessary and right for this next chapter of [their] lives."

Earlier this month, the Grammy winner announced plans to release a new single.

Clarkson is also returning as a "Voice" coach this fall for the 30th season of the competition series. *Nicki Gostin*

Cell hurler hits infant

A crazed homeless man went on a rampage in Manhattan's Bryant Park Saturday, hurling a cellphone at a stroller mom and her infant — striking the child on the arm, cops said.

Around 10 a.m., 49-year-old Marc Okon allegedly targeted the stroller near Sixth Avenue and West 41st Street, striking the little girl on the left arm and causing visible redness.

Okon, who is homeless, then reportedly retrieved the device and threw it at the 39-year-old mother, but the phone missed its mark.

Police took Okon into custody at the scene

Daniel Cody

What else can I say but, *no thank you*!

JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI

THERE are some myths you hear repeated so many times during your life, you assume they must be true.

People should drink eight glasses of water per day. George Washington had wooden teeth.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson is America's favorite actor.

About that last one: Hollywood has clung to this tenet like fingers to a cliffside the last 10 years. It's mystifying. I've never been anywhere that I've heard so much of a whisper of, "I love the Rock."

Perhaps I've just been wandering into the wrong places, like organic wine bars.

But, no. The 54-year-old wrestler-turned-thespian — wrespian? — consistently underwhelms where it matters most: at the box office. And yet he's still one of Hollywood's highest-paid performers. In 2024, Johnson actually held the No. 1 slot, taking home a reported $88 million.

It sure does pay to be the Scorpion King of Flops.

SMACKED DOWN: Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's latest movie "Moana" (left as Maui) isn't bringing in money at the box office nor earning good reviews. It's another flop in a long list of them, including "Jungle Cruise" (above with Emily Blunt).

Disney via AP; AP

'Rock'y horror picture show

So many bombs

The guy's made so many bombs, he could be a weapons factory.

Johnson's latest project to get KO punched was last weekend's "Moana," Disney's live-action remake of the 2016 cartoon, which had a three-day domestic opening of just $43 million and a RottenTomatoes score of 31%. These are existential crisis numbers.

Conservative estimates have the disaster losing $100 million-$125 million for the studio. The video clip of Johnson's character Maui's song "You're Welcome," which has been widely shared online, will have you losing your lunch.

"Moana" isn't an isolated island for the Rock either.

His last five years, save for a couple voice roles, have been littered with duds.

The Christmas brick of coal "Red One" in 2024, the year Johnson was top paid, grossed a measly $186 million against a massive budget of more than $200 million.

The god-awful DC Comics movie "Black Adam," in which Johnson barely moved his face in the title role, was another bomb — and one of the final nails in the DC Extended Universe coffin.

Disney's family friendly "Jungle Cruise" and "Red Notice" on Netflix added to the resume of failures. His snooze-o-rama attempt at a prestige picture in 2025, "The Smashing Machine," got neither butts in seats nor an Oscar nomination for him.

Why is The Rock tumbling?

The man is facing several sudden hurdles. One is that good acting appeals forever, while fun personalities do not.

Johnson is a star, not an actor, and the public chews up personas and spits 'em out without a second thought.

His monotonous, macho, eyebrow-dependent performances have worn thin. And his repetitive schtick, much as Arnold Schwarzenegger's was after a while, is of a different time.

Sorry, Dwayne, the culture has moved on. You should've run for governor of California.

Another problem is a shift no one saw coming. Gen. Z has put down their phones and are actually going to the movies. In fact, the young cohort is the most active moviegoing demographic today, with an April Fandango survey reporting that 87% of Gen Zers have attended a film in the last 12 months.

Not a draw

The Rock made his first flick, "The Scorpion King, in 2002, when the oldest Gen Z members were only 5 years old. They don't remember, know or care about his WWE days, where his nickname came from and when his fanbase was cemented.

Of his original diehards, Gen X and Boomers, respectively 70% and 58% have been to the cinema in the past year.

And Johnson's not to Gen. Z's taste at all. They're going to see clever, authentic mega-hits like "Backrooms" and "Obsession" — not the regurgitated worm slop that Johnson cherishes.

Really, I don't see Johnson ever returning in triumph to his former heights of stardom. Not in a world where the major draws are Tom Holland, Zendaya and Timothée Chalamet.

Or maybe The Rock's lousy box-office fortunes will reverse when "Jumanji: Open World" hits theaters this Christmas.

Perhaps. For now, though, his Hollywood career is an open wound.

D'AGNYC

Let us Cater your next Event

www.DagNYC.com

@DAGNYC D'Agostino Supermarkets @DAGNYC

BROS IN NEW ‘RAPE’ BUSTS

‘Manosphere’ influencers

By DAVID SPECTOR

AFP via Getty Images

RAPS: Andrew (right) and Tristan Tate address previous sex-crime charges in Romania in March last year.

“Manosphere” influencer brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate were arrested by US Marshals in Florida on Saturday in connection to rape and sex trafficking charges in the UK.

The pair were taken into custody outside of the James L. Knight Center in Miami shortly before Andrew was set to host IBA Bareknuckle 6, a bareknuckle boxing event.

The Tates, who have both British and American citizenship, have faced legal troubles for years, and were nabbed because of a host of new sex crime charges handed down overseas.

Andrew, 39, was slapped with seven additional counts of rape — in addition to charges he was already facing in the UK — after four new victims came to light, a statement from The Crown Prosecution Service said.

He was hit with “three counts of arranging or facilitating trafficking for sexual exploitation, three counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and 19 additional charges for . . . child and extreme pornography,” it said.

Tristan, 38, was charges including two counts of rape and three counts of arranging or facilitating trafficking.

The charges stem from incidents that occurred between July 2010 and August 2017, according to the statement.

The UK is seeking the pair’s extradition.

“These charging decisions . . . bring the total number of alleged victims in this case to seven,” Head of the Special Crime Division at the Crown Prosecution Service Malcolm McHaffie said.

The US Marshals confirmed the Tates’ arrest.

The Tates’ attorney, Joe McBryde, disputed the charges and told The Post the arrest should not have occurred until their trials in Romania and in Florida concluded.

“This is like Keir Starmer’s last day in office; it’s obvious that this little petty bastard has nothing better to do than persecute these two guys he wishes he could act like, walk like and talk like,” he said.

Last year, Andrew was hit with 10 charges of rape, actual bodily harm, human trafficking and controlling prostitution for gain in the UK related to three women, and Tristan received 11 charges of rape, actual bodily harm and human trafficking related to one woman.

They were arrested in Bucharest in 2022 on charges including rape and trafficking minors. They served three months in prison before being put on house arrest in April 2023 and then left Romania for the US in February 2025.

The brothers have long maintained their innocence. *David Spector*

Suit over tragic mama pup

A callous NYC veterinarian ignored a pregnant Pomeranian’s agonizing final hours, causing her and her three unborn pups to die after 30 hours of torturous labor, her devastated owner claims.

Yiutung Lok is demanding $3 million in punitive damages from a Flatlands animal hospital, VEG ER for Pets, and veterinarian Kayla Anderson for his beloved pet’s horrific death in April.

Lok, 57, claims Anderson brushed off his cries for help about his furry 3-year-old friend Eva and insisted the pooch give birth at home — when she urgently needed medical intervention or a C-section, according to the suit filed in Brooklyn Supreme Court Wednesday.

Eva was rushed to the animal hospital at 4:25 a.m. on April 15 in agony, five hours after she went into labor at home, court papers said.

He said he told Anderson about the alarming complications the 10-pound Pomeranian was dealing with, but the vet allegedly sent Eva home, court papers said.

Lok brought Eva back at 5:40 a.m. By the time the dog finally received medical attention, it was too late.

Anderson declined to comment. *Sonya Gugliara*

DANIEL STEIGER

HONORING 250 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.

LIST PRICE
~~$699~~
86% OFF
NOW ONLY
$99
PLUS S&H
YOU SAVE
$600
“Very handsome and well made. An impressive piece of jewelry.”
Philip C. - Poulsbo, WA.
★★★★★
PATRIOT
LIMITED EDITION

AMERICAN RESILIENCE

Craftsmanship That Honors Heritage...

It’s a pride thing — pride in your country, pride in being an American. The **Patriot Watch** is a bold tribute to the strength, freedom, and enduring values of the U.S.A.

Expertly crafted from **solid stainless steel with 18k gold detailing**, this striking timepiece pairs rugged durability with timeless style. A **genuine brown leather** cuff strap features **two prominent American Eagle medallions**, accented with red, white, and blue enamel — powerful symbols of courage and country.

The eagle takes centre stage once more on the dial, paired with bold white hands and a convenient date window, ensuring dependable performance every day. Built to stand the test of time, it’s a watch worthy of the values it represents.

Now only **$99** plus S&H with promo code **NP6PAT**. Call **1-800-733-8463** or visit **www.timepiecesusa.com/NP6PAT** to order. Backed by our 30-day money-back guarantee for complete peace of mind.

Stand tall. Wear your pride. Celebrate 250 years of freedom.

- 18k Yellow Gold Finish
- Premium Brown Leather Cuff Strap
- Luxury Stainless Steel Case

CALL NOW TOLL FREE 24/7 ON: 1-800-733-8463

PLEASE QUOTE NP6PAT OR ORDER ONLINE AT:

www.timepiecesusa.com/NP6PAT

PAY BY CHECK: Timepieces International Inc. 10701 NW 140th Street,
Suite 1, Hialeah Gardens, FL 33018

‘Odyssey’ director bans cellphones,

GREEK SQUAD: "The Odyssey," starring Matt Damon (near left) and directed by Christopher Nolan (far right), is expected to take in $100 million this weekend.

EPIC WORLD OF CHRIS NOLAN

Universal Pictures via AP (3), Getty Images for Universal Pictures, Universal/Courtesy Everett Collection, Newmarket Releasing/Courtesy Everett Collection, AP

By JEANETTE SETTEMBRE and MICHAEL KAPLAN

‘The Odyssey” director Christopher Nolan runs a tight warship. And it’s expected to earn his film as much as $100 million this opening weekend, as fans made their own epic journeys — even flying across the country — to see it in IMAX.

Bringing Homer’s 8th-century epic poem to the big screen meant actors — including Matt Damon, Anne Hathaway, Tom Holland, Zendaya, Charlize Theron, Lupita Nyong’o, John Leguizamo and Robert Pattinson — practically lived like it was 750 BCE.

No phones or water bottles (too noisy) are reportedly allowed on set, per Nolan’s house rules. He’s even admitted to banning Uggs. The 55-year-old British-American director himself refuses to have a chair, only carries a flip phone and doesn’t have email.

“With the banning of cellphones, part of it is he wants people to be focused on the craft. He wants to make movies in as much of the old-fashioned way as possible, where people are focused on the film,” Jason Eberl, co-editor of “The Philosophy of Christopher Nolan,” a book of essays, told Page Six.

“Not having phones on set lends itself to a very, very focused set. There’s a different vibration on a Chris Nolan set. Everyone is present, everyone is ready, alert and doing their bit to keep the train on the tracks,” Nyong’o, who plays dual roles Helen of Troy and her twin sister Clytemnestra, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

“I try to minimize distractions,” Nolan told Stephen Colbert. “Even though we’re all engaged in this absurd process where this wall is real, but there’s lights and a guy with a microphone, you’re asking the actor to focus in on the reality . . . Anything we can do to keep that reality, that bubble, intact.”

Around the world

That was especially vital with “The Odyssey,” as production was interrupted every three minutes to change the 70mm film needed to make Hollywood’s first-ever completely IMAX movie (most only use the special cameras for action scenes).

“Not everybody gets great dressing rooms and not everyone gets first class transportation. He cuts corners on the things that will not impact the movie — and then he puts money into things that will make the movie better. Making the movie better is his only focus,” one Hollywood insider told Page Six, calling Nolan “the most important filmmaker in the world” right now.

And all those rules work.

OH MY GODDESS: Zendaya plays Athena opposite Damon’s Odysseus.

“The Odyssey” came in early, using just 91 of its scheduled 100 days, and, Nolan has said, under budget, despite filming across multiple countries — Greece, Italy, Iceland, Scotland, Malta, Morocco — and on elaborate sets including a real Viking longship on the Mediterranean. (That sometimes meant a seasick cast, who were filmed vomiting over the side.)

“Every decision, from the way a scene is shot to the smallest character detail, has a purpose behind it,” 18-year-old actor Raimy Lang, who plays teenage Antinous, told Page Six.

One of Nolan’s most awe-inspiring scenes shows the story’s Trojan Horse half-submerged in the icy sea — with actor Jon Bernthal actually inside it for hours.

Without digital effects, Nolan’s team erected a 60-foot puppet

water bottles — even Uggs — on set

version of the man-eating Cyclops Polyphemus, shooting the scene in the darkness in a cave with real firelight creating a shadowy effect.

‘Hardest movie’

On the other end of the spectrum, a scene showing the descent of Odysseus — played by a bearded Damon — into the underworld was shot during Iceland’s “white nights” period of 24/7 daylight.

“It was the hardest movie I’ve ever done, by far. Not even close [to anything else],” Damon, who appears to nearly drown in one scene in the film, told “60 Minutes.”

“The first meeting I had with [Nolan], at the end of the meeting, he said this movie is going to be hard,” Damon, said of his third film with the director, following 2014’s “Interstellar” and “Oppenheimer,” which won seven Oscars at the 96th Academy Awards in 2024.

“He looked at me and said, ‘No, this movie is going to be really hard.’ ”

The Post’s movie critic, Johnny Oleksinski, wrote: “One of Odysseus’ best scenes, though, isn’t massive at all. It’s in the hillside cottage of the witch Circe, whose favorite pastime is turning warriors into pigs. The superb Samantha Morton gives a barnburner speech about why her victims deserve to be swine.”

Write stuff

And while the story was written, of course, by Homer, Nolan’s scripts give actors much to work with — earning Oscar wins over the years for Heath Ledger, Cillian Murphy and Robert Downey, Jr.

Nolan writes his own screenplays, sometimes alone (“Inception,” “Tenet”), sometimes with his brother Jonathan (“Interstellar,” “The Dark Knight”) and sometimes adapting others’ stories (“Memento,” “Oppenheimer”).

But it wasn’t always easy to get his work sold.

Nolan’s 2000 psychological thriller, “Memento,” took a year to find a distributor.

From there, his work continued to blow up — sometimes literally, through his commitment to making scenes in real life as much as possible. He collapsed a building for “The Dark Knight.” With “Tenet,” he bought a 747 plane and built a hanger building to crash it into.

All told, Nolan’s blockbusters have won 18 Academy Awards and raked in more than $6 billion.

Among “Oppenheimer”’s seven Oscars were Nolan’s first two, for best director and best picture.

“I feel a real responsibility to try and get as much on screen for the audience as possible. To give the audience the fullest flavor. The fullest set. The fullest set of images and events that we can give them for a given story,” he told “60 Minutes.”

‘Human side’

Lang, the young actor from “The Odyssey,” told Page Six, “He has this ability to create huge cinematic experiences while still keeping the focus on the human side of the story.

“You can see the amount of thought that goes into every choice, and it’s inspiring to watch someone who has reached that level still be so passionate and involved in every detail,” he said.

MYTH-MAKING: Anne Hathaway co-stars as Penelope in “The Odyssey,” while Tom Holland plays Telemachus.

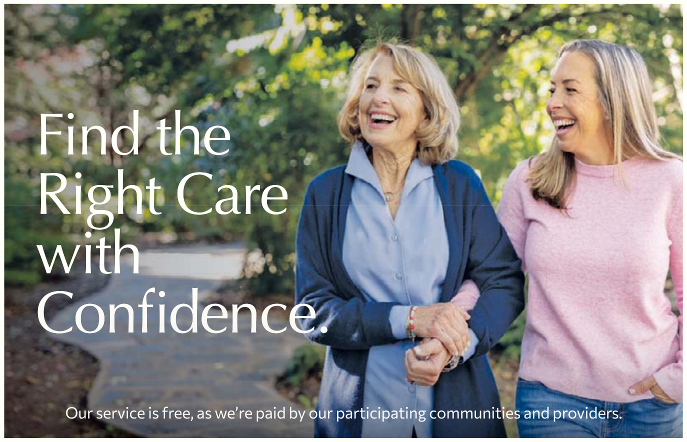
ON A ROLE

‘MEMENTO’

‘OPPENHEIMER’

‘THE DARK KNIGHT’

AND THE WINNER IS. . . : Although Nolan made well-respected films like“Memento” and “The Dark Knight,” he didn’t win an Oscar until “Oppenheimer” in 2024, which won best director and picture.


Find the Right Care with Confidence.
Our service is free, as we're paid by our participating communities and providers.

Receive compassionate, personalized support at no cost.
We connect families to senior living communities and home care providers that truly meet their needs.

aPlaceforMom.
Where love finds its place

1.800.816.5963
APlaceforMom.com

His vile rants

B'klyn teacher's hate online

By DAVID SPECTOR

A New York City public school teacher hosts a vile podcast where he spouts unhinged, antisemitic conspiracy theories while wearing a homemade tinfoil hat, The Post has learned.

George Trim, 43, who teaches social studies at IS 281 in Bath Beach, Brooklyn, regularly posts wild videos to his YouTube page, where he goes by Cartoonking365.

The Post identified Trim by matching images from his YouTube account to pictures posted online from the school's Instagram.

His channel, MMEEDUCATING, is filled with videos where he espouses various conspiracies, while clad in a wacky tinfoil hat and other bizarre costumes, such as a Guy Fawkes mask.

GEORGE TRIM
Posts to YouTube, too.

In one video from July 8, the educator espoused the antisemitic conspiracy theory that WTC owner Larry Silverstein had prior knowledge of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"Before you have a 9/11, this guy just has the insight to get insurance against a terrorist attack on the Twin Towers. OK, Larry Silverstein, you are you," Trim ranted.

In a June 15 diatribe, he accused Israel of playing a role in the JFK assassination.

Trim began working for the city Department of Education in 2009 and collected a $110,848 salary in 2025, public records show. He received a master's degree from the University of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx in 2012, according to his LinkedIn.

"Antisemitic educators and schools continue to freely promote Jewish conspiracies, tropes, libels, and indoctrination that go unchecked by school leaders," United Jewish Teacher President Moshe Spern told The Post.

A DOE spokesperson told The Post that the matter has been referred for investigation.

Trim could not be reached for comment.

Post Weather Report

AccuWeather. Proven Superior Accuracy™ Visit AccuWeather.com

Sunday

Today: Mostly sunny and less humid. High 79 to 85.

Tonight: Clear. Low 62 to 68.

Monday

Tomorrow: Sunny to partly cloudy. High 79 to 85.

Tomorrow night: Clouds breaking. Low 68 to 74.

Tuesday

T-storms. High 75 to 81.

Evening
T-storms. Low 70 to 76.

Wednesday

A stray t-storm. High 80 to 86.

Evening
Mainly clear. Low 63 to 69.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

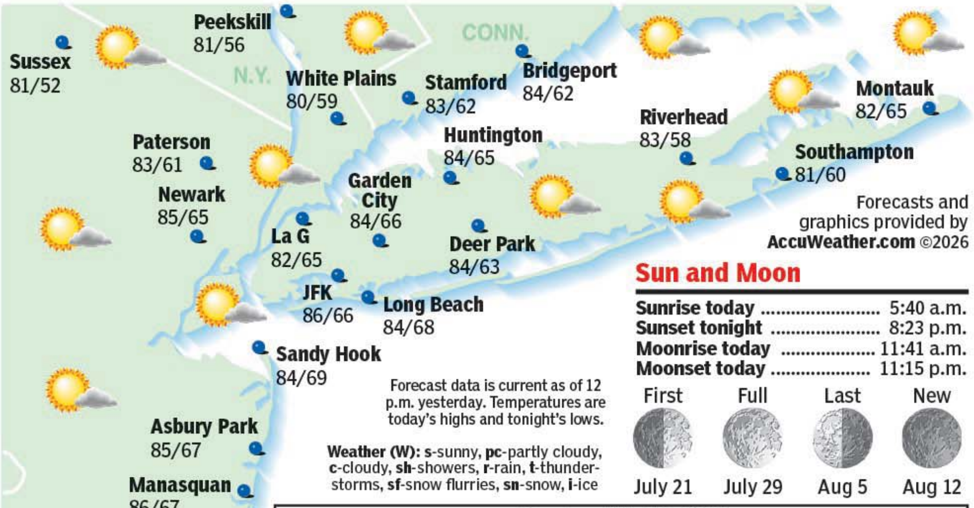
Temperature
High: 76, Low: 71, Mean: 74

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: -4 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.06", Month: 1.89",
Year: 19.71", Normal year to date: 26.26"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 9
Total for the month (normal) 241 (224)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 641 (532)
Last year to date 588
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 73
UV index (for Sun.) .... 10 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 93%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sun.) . Unhealthy sensitive


Peekskill 81/56
Sussex 81/52
N.Y.
CONN.
White Plains 80/59
Stamford 83/62
Bridgeport 84/62
Riverhead 83/58
Montauk 82/65
Paterson 83/61
Huntington 84/65
Southampton 81/60
Newark 85/65
Garden City 84/66
La G 82/65
Deer Park 84/63
JFK 86/66
Long Beach 84/68
Sandy Hook 84/69
Asbury Park 85/67
Manasquan 86/67
Toms River 86/62
N.J.
Long Beach 83/66
Atlantic City 88/60
Ocean City 86/66

Forecast data is current as of 12 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

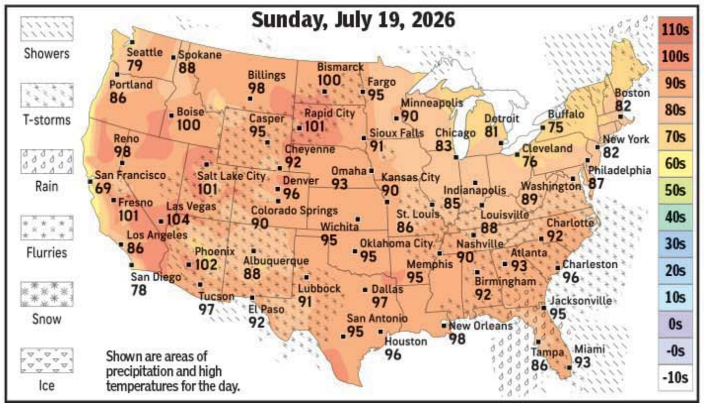
Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:40 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:23 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 11:41 a.m.
Moonset today .... 11:15 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
July 21	July 29	Aug 5	Aug 12

Sunday, July 19, 2026


Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 79
Spokane 88
Portland 86
Billings 98
Bismarck 100
Fargo 95
Boise 100
Casper 95
Rapid City 101
Minneapolis 90
Reno 98
Cheyenne 92
Sioux Falls 91
Chicago 83
Detroit 81
Buffalo 75
Boston 82
New York 82
Cleveland 76
Philadelphia 87
San Francisco 69
Salt Lake City 101
Denver 96
Omaha 93
Kansas City 90
Indianapolis 85
Washington 89
Fresno 101
Las Vegas 104
Colorado Springs 90
Wichita 95
St. Louis 86
Louisville 88
Charlotte 92
Los Angeles 86
Phoenix 102
Albuquerque 88
Oklahoma City 95
Nashville 90
Atlanta 93
Charleston 96
Memphis 95
San Diego 78
Birmingham 92
Lubbock 91
Dallas 97
Tucson 97
El Paso 92
Jacksonville 95
San Antonio 95
Houston 96
New Orleans 98
Tampa 86
Miami 93
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

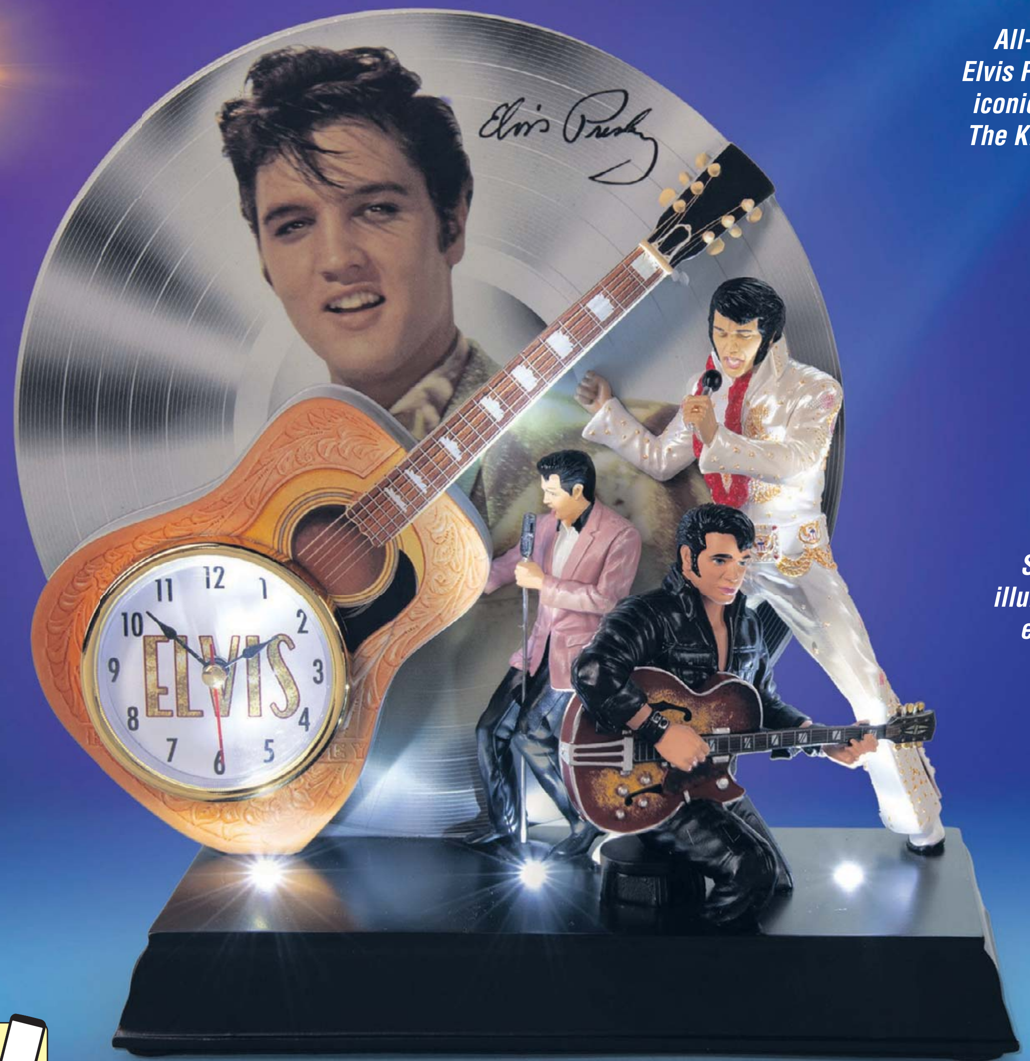
New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	12:02a	12:44p	12:53a	1:33p
Fire Island	12:09a	12:45p	12:56a	1:34p
Hempstead	3:46a	4:17p	4:41a	5:10p
Huntington	3:39a	4:08p	4:32a	4:59p
Jones Inlet	12:28p	---	12:37a	1:17p
Montauk Point	1:13a	1:49p	2:05a	2:42p
Port Washington	3:53a	4:25p	4:51a	5:20p
Sandy Hook	12:06a	12:48p	12:57a	1:37p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	79/57/s	82/64/pc
Danbury	79/55/s	80/61/s
Glens Falls	79/49/s	82/57/pc
Gr Barrington	77/52/s	79/56/s
Kingston	82/54/s	84/61/s
Liberty	75/50/s	77/57/s
Monticello	75/47/s	78/56/s
Newburgh	82/55/s	83/63/s
Poughkeepsie	82/54/s	83/62/s
Saratoga Springs	80/53/s	81/59/pc
Stroudsburg	81/52/s	83/64/s
Torrington	79/54/s	79/61/s
Syracuse	76/57/s	82/68/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	96/75/s	96/77/s
Baghdad	117/87/s	113/91/s
Beijing	90/71/s	84/69/sh
Berlin	72/55/sh	66/55/sh
Cairo	100/78/pc	101/77/pc
Dublin	70/50/pc	70/53/pc
Geneva	84/60/sh	87/59/s
Hong Kong	89/83/r	89/83/r
Jerusalem	92/71/s	90/71/s
Kabul	98/74/pc	98/72/pc
London	76/55/pc	80/58/pc
Madrid	98/69/s	98/71/s
Mexico City	77/55/r	78/56/r
Montreal	77/58/pc	78/65/pc
Moscow	82/60/s	82/63/pc
Paris	78/55/c	76/56/pc
Rio de Janeiro	81/67/s	82/68/pc
Rome	92/75/s	93/74/s
Sydney	66/54/sh	67/51/s
Tokyo	92/78/pc	96/80/s

Forever Elvis TABLETOP CLOCK

LIGHTS UP!



All-new tribute featuring Elvis Presley™ brings you the iconic outfits and imagery of The King of Rock and Roll™ !

SIGNATURE PRODUCT

Spotlights in the base illuminate the clock face & each legendary outfit!

Clock measures 9″ tall and 9″ wide! (Stage lights require 3 AAA batteries; Clock requires 1 AAA battery; not included.)

Fastest way to order:
HamiltonCollection.com/ForeverElvis

From his dazzling debut to his worldwide televised triumphs, Elvis Presley™ defined music, style, and stage presence like no other entertainer. Now, his most iconic performances and unforgettable looks are celebrated in a NEW tabletop clock that keeps his memory alive with every passing moment.

Celebrate Elvis™ like never before!

The **"Forever Elvis Tabletop Clock"** showcases three hand-sculpted, bas-relief depictions of Elvis™ in his most legendary appearances—the electrifying early '50s rocker, the leather-clad powerhouse from the 1968 Comeback Special, and the dazzling *Aloha from Hawaii* televised performance. Each figure is hand-painted to capture the detail, charisma, and energy that made The King of Rock 'N' Roll™ unforgettable.

Behind the figures is a full-size 45-rpm platinum record backdrop, gleaming with vibrant art of Elvis™ in his glittering gold lamé suit, complete with his replica signature. Built-in stage lights illuminate the figures and the working clock face, casting Elvis™ in the spotlight once more.

Send no money now. The issue price for the **"Forever Elvis Tabletop Clock"** is payable in four payments of $37.49 (plus $21.99 total shipping and service, and sales tax; see HamiltonCollection.com); with only the first payment billed prior to shipment. Your satisfaction is unconditionally guaranteed. Reserve yours today!

© 2026 HC. All Rights Reserved.
ELVIS™ and ELVIS PRESLEY™ are trademarks of ABG EPE IP LLC Rights of Publicity and Persona Rights: Elvis Presley Enterprises, LLC
© 2026 ABG EPE IP LLC elvis.com

The Hamilton Collection
A Division of The Bradford Exchange

9204 Center For The Arts Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714-1300

SEND NO MONEY NOW!

YES! Please reserve the **"Forever Elvis Tabletop Clock"** for me as described in this announcement.

Subject to product availability and credit approval.
Allow 2 to 4 weeks for shipment after initial payment.

Scan Code to Shop

Name____________________
(Please print clearly.)

Address____________________

City____________________State________Zip____________

09-10974-001-NYPQR

09-10974-001-I16901

‘Gray Lady’s disturbing pattern of

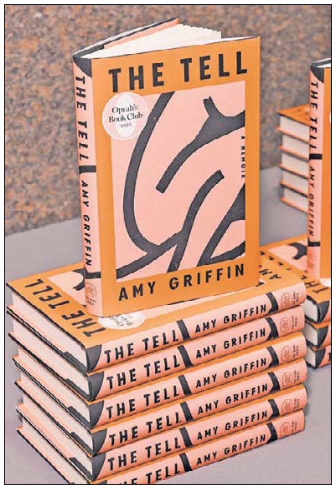
The Times they are a gaslightin’

TATIANA SIEGEL

Page Six Hollywood

ON Sept. 24, 2025, The New York Times published a front-page story that attempted something highly uncharacteristic of the Gray Lady: A 5,000-plus-word report, four months in the making, that aimed to discredit a woman’s rape account. Behind the scenes, a former “Temptation Island” contestant also figured into the piece’s twisty backstory. His interview with the Times could have potentially blown up the investigative report, but was not included, according to court documents.

The target of the Times was venture capitalist and author **Amy Griffin**, whose best-selling memoir “The Tell” limns an adolescence that included being raped by a middle school teacher whose identity she veiled. The Dial Press book became a runaway success after hitting bookshelves in March 2025, with CAA quickly fielding interest for film, documentary and TV adaptations.



The Times story, which ran under the headline “The Billionaire, the Psychedelics and the Best-Selling Memoir,” painted Griffin as a sketchy dilettante and floated the possibility that she appropriated the rape story of a former classmate for her own literary clout. It rocked the publishing world and New York society and has spawned dueling lawsuits between Griffin and the former classmate that are heating up this summer.

But legal filings show that the Times omitted a key interview with **Dominique Price** — a breakout reality star from the second season of “Temptation Island.” The Price interview could have raised a red flag about the veracity of the former classmate, who was the Times’ sole source claiming that Griffin was a trauma thief.

The Jane Doe classmate claimed in a March lawsuit against Griffin that she was approached by Price in April 2022, and that he falsely represented himself “as a ‘talent agent’ and ‘producer’ in order to solicit Plaintiff’s private information and memories for unauthorized use in ‘The Tell.’ ”

According to Griffin’s countersuit, filed last month, a Times reporter reached out to Price via text about 19 days before the story published, and the “confused” reality player agreed to talk to her.

In a declaration made under oath, Price said the journo, “asked me if I had ever worked for a casting or talent agency, and I told her truthfully that I had not. The reporter further asked me whether I was familiar with [Jane Doe] whose name I did not recognize. I was unfamiliar with all the topics the reporter asked about, and I suggested that she had contacted the wrong person.”

Price added in his declaration that prior to being contacted by the reporter, he had no knowledge of Griffin or “any involvement, direct or indirect” with anyone involved with “The Tell” or any persons acting on their behalf. “I did not participate in, contribute to, or provide services to any investigation, research, writing, or background-collection efforts relating to ‘The Tell’ or any book.”

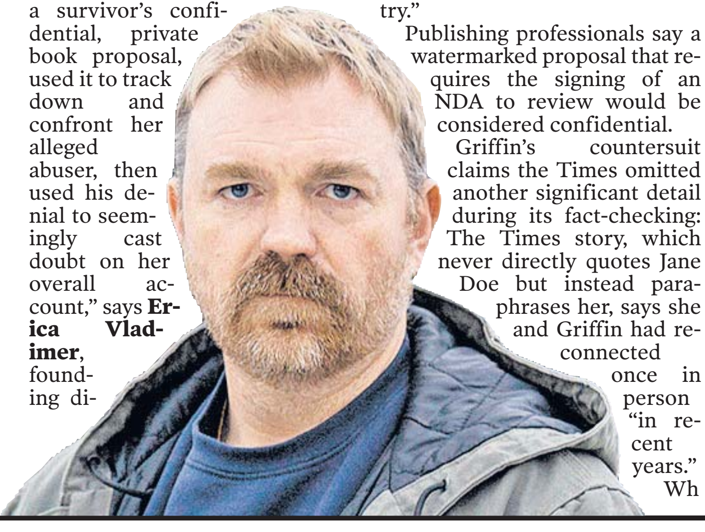
Times’ ‘tactics’

Strangely, the Times story never mentions Price nor hints at sourcing that would contradict its Jane Doe. A spokesperson for the Times says: “Because we did not say Ms. Griffin misappropriated [Jane Doe’s] story, and did not include any theory about or even mention Mr. Price, the factual dispute over whether Mr. Price and [Jane Doe] spoke and when was irrelevant to our article. In her California lawsuit [Jane Doe] now disputes the facts provided by Mr. Price in his affidavit in the Nevada case. In other words, it is an open and unresolved factual dispute.”

Griffin’s attorney **Eric Hageman** at Clare Locke says of the Times: “Its reporters knew that Amy went to the police in August 2021, eight months before, [by Jane Doe’s own] account, Price began extracting her story for Amy’s use. Amy sat for a two-hour, recorded interview with the Amarillo Police Department, recounting in great detail the abuse described in ‘The Tell.’ Amy could not have stolen in 2022 a story she gave the police in 2021.”

Even more eyebrow raising, the Times acknowledged in its piece that it used unpublished material to out Griffin as an accuser to a second man — a family friend — without her knowledge or consent.

“The Times took a detail from a survivor’s confidential, private book proposal, used it to track down and confront her alleged abuser, then used his denial to seemingly cast doubt on her overall account,” says **Erica Vladimer**, founding director of Harassment-Free New York. “That’s not reporting; that’s a victim-doubting tactic that abusers themselves use. Survivors are always watching how the press treats other survivors, and this is exactly how you teach every one of them not to trust you with their story.”



A Times spokesperson says: “It is Ms. Griffin who identified him publicly. She cited him by name in her book proposal, which was shared with at least several dozen people in the publishing industry.”

Publishing professionals say a watermarked proposal that requires the signing of an NDA to review would be considered confidential.

Griffin’s countersuit claims the Times omitted another significant detail during its fact-checking: The Times story, which never directly quotes Jane Doe but instead paraphrases her, says she and Griffin had reconnected once in person “in recent years.”

While the timing is vague and the location is absent, Jane Doe’s lawsuit is more specific. She claims that the two women met in Palm Springs in 2019 and talked about “their past growing up in the Amarillo area,” but neither discussed their respective rape stories, which involved different teachers at the same middle school.

“The Times refused to give us this key detail before publication, saying only that the two had met in a coffee shop at some point before the COVID-19 pandemic,” Hageman says. “Had the Times simply provided the date and location, we would have quickly and gladly proven that Mrs. Griffin was not in Palm Springs in 2019. The Times hid all of this from us and now says that it does not care that [Jane Doe’s] story of theft was disproven before the article was printed. It is shameful that the Times refuses to retract a story it knows to be false.”

A ‘pattern’

A Times spokesperson says: “In an article that largely focused on events from 40 years ago, ‘in recent years’ was a less confusing way to reference 2019.”

The litigation comes at a time when the newspaper is facing

doubting female assault-accusers

The New York Times published a piece in 2015 seemingly designed to cast doubt on rape accuser Amy Griffin (right) and followed that with another undermining a Graham Platner (below) accuser in June.

Getty Images for Amy Griffin

questions about its handling of **Graham Platner** accusers in a June story titled “Several Women Who Dated Graham Platner Recall ‘Unsettling’ Behavior.” Former Times public editor **Margaret Sullivan** wrote in The Guardian that “the story’s narrative approach — including a long lead-in from the perspective of the Platner campaign — was notably indirect.” That long lead-in arguably undermined accuser **Lyndsey Fifield**’s allegations, which prompted a second accuser, **Jenny Racicot**, to go on the record with Politico and CNN’s **Jake Tapper** with her own Platner rape claim — something she had previously shared with The Times off the record. (Platner has denied both allegations.)

“If I had known about the Times’ pattern of egregiously mistreating women who are survivors of abuse, I never would have trusted them to report my story,” Fifield tells Page Six Hollywood. “Though the journalists are different, reading the Times reporting of Amy Griffin’s story of abuse reads eerily similar to the way they reported my own — weighed down with endless paragraphs of intentionally discrediting, extraneous details.”

A Times spokesperson says: “These articles have nothing to do with each other.”

The Griffin story is filled with tangents that are irrelevant to her core allegation of being raped by a teacher. The reporters fixate on her wealth and dub her “a scion” of the Texas panhandle because her family owned some 50 Toot’n Totum convenience stores at the time. The reporters continued to hammer on her station as the wife of hedge fund manager **John Griffin**, even detailing the price of the couple’s Upper East Side townhouse.

The use of MDMA therapy, which Griffin describes in “The Tell” as having helped her retrieve some of her abuse memories, is positioned as “a matter of debate.” (Vladimer says there’s no such debate in the survivor community about MDMA.) Standard book-promoting efforts are spun as nefarious, like Griffin leveraging her network of A-listers to share their enthusiasm for “The Tell.”

One source familiar with the story’s reporting process suspects that **Katherine Rosman**, one of the article’s authors and also a memoirist, was “jealous” of the success of “The Tell,” which became an Oprah Book Club selection. “And so they went to Amarillo, and they knocked on all these doors and talked to all these people. And they couldn’t find anything because there is nothing,” the source says. (The piece was reported with **Elisabeth Egan**.)

‘Out of control’

“The Tell” sold roughly 25 times more units than Rosman’s own very personal 2010 memoir “If You Knew Suzy: A Mother, a Daughter, a Reporter’s Notebook.” (According to BookScan, Griffin’s tome sold 75,876 hardcover copies vs. Rosman’s 2,745. Both titles are likely about 1.5 times higher given that BookScan doesn’t include audio or ebooks.)

A Times spokesperson says: “We know plenty of journalists who admire Katie’s work including this interesting and important story about a major event in book publishing.”

Griffin’s lawyers say in their countersuit that Rosman “indicated excitement at the prospect of taking down Mrs. Griffin,” and “doubted Mrs. Griffin’s story from the start, telling a source she could not believe that the child of a wealthy family could be violently abused without anyone noticing” — and that she and Egan asked “leading questions designed to elicit doubt.”

Ultimately, Griffin’s counterclaim says The Times appears to have set out to prove a thesis based on a hunch that a beautiful teenager who grew up on the right side of the tracks couldn’t have been raped. The story ends on the point that no other victims have ever accused the unnamed teacher, but the same logic would apply to their Jane Doe, whose alleged perpetrator was not alleged by The Times to have any other accusers.

A Times spokesperson says the reporters “applied the same rigor” into looking into the Jane Doe teacher, but declined to answer what they found or why they didn’t include their reporting. (The Times never addresses the possibility that both women were victims of sexual assault. Griffin’s teacher, whose identity is known by The Times reporters, has never publicly denied the claim.)

“The Times’ investigation began with its conclusion,” Griffin’s counterclaim states. “Its ‘reporting’ was a hunt for a reason to disbelieve ‘The Tell.’ ”

Meanwhile, the story’s subhead suggests that there was mass skepticism about the book, but can only point to one doubter by name: Podcaster **Maureen Callahan**, whose “The Nerve” is produced by **Megyn Kelly**’s MK Media. Instead of mentioning the Kelly ties, the Times describes her as “a sharp-tongued columnist,” and omits the publication for which she writes, The Daily Mail.

“Many people expressed doubts, not just Callahan,” a Times spokesperson says.

Some say The Times’ overall framing of the story has left a bad taste.

Publicist **Vanessa Santos**, who has represented the nonprofit PAVE (Promoting Awareness | Victim Empowerment) as well as several **Bill Cosby** accusers, says: “Between their reporting on ‘The Tell’ and their treatment of the Platner accusers, The New York Times is out of control with how they’re covering women.”

FLEET IN FLAMES

Reuters

SMOKY SHOW OF FORCE: A Russian warehouse burns after being struck by a wave of Ukrainian drones on Saturday near Moscow.

Ukr. sinks 13 Russian ‘shadow’ ships

By GABRIELLE FAHMY

Ukrainian drones sank 13 Russian “shadow fleet” commercial ships used to dodge international sanctions Saturday.

The strikes targeted eight dry cargo vessels, two oil and gas tankers, one tugboat and two floating cranes in the Black and Azov seas, according to Ukrainian Commander Robert Brovdi.

In footage shared on social media, Ukrainian drones are seen racing toward the ships before the ships erupt into flames.

“The goal remains the same: to stop the logistics of oil, fuel, and cargo in circumvention of sanctions,” Brovdi wrote on Facebook.

“We will turn every self-propelled vessel into a drifting ship, blind and deaf.”

The overnight attack brings the total number of Russian vessels struck by Ukraine in its new maritime campaign, dubbed “Operation Molochka,” to 172.

Brovdi said the campaign, launched July 6, has forced the Kremlin to divert drone and air defenses from Ukraine’s frontline to the sea.

Kyiv’s drones also set a military warehouse on fire in the Moscow region as massive plumes of eerily black smoke towered above the sky of the Russian capital.

Fire raged at a warehouse of Russia’s biggest online retailer, Wildberries, in the Moscow suburb of Elektrostal — which had been diverted into a military production site since the start of the war.

Forces also struck a Wildberries factory in the Tambov region, 220 miles from the Ukrainian border, killing seven night shift workers and wounding 25 others.

Russia strikes, too

“These facilities were used by the aggressor to supply sanctioned components for the production of drones and navigation equipment,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on X.

A Ukrainian drone also hit an oil depot in the city of Noginsk in the Moscow region, sparking a fire and forcing the evacuation of a nearby maternity hospital.

One person died and 36 were wounded in the Moscow region, according to Gov. Andrei Vorobyov.

Meanwhile, Russian missiles and drones pummeled Ukraine’s southern coast, killing at least 13 civilians and wounding 66 more across the war-torn country over the past day.

The historic Black Sea port city of Odesa was the Kremlin’s primary target, according to Ukraine’s Air Force, as the summer tourist season reaches its peak.

A 16-year-old boy was killed and at least four people were injured, including a 2-year-old toddler, in a missile strike on an amusement park in the Odesa region.

Harry & Meg’s rough royal reunion

The royal family reunion may not have gone as planned for Meghan Markle.

“One gets the sense that, from Meghan’s perspective, the reunion with Charles and Camilla wasn’t entirely warm and fuzzy,” royal author Christopher Andersen told Page Six earlier this week.

However, a palace source questioned how Andersen would be privy to what had been a “private family-only meeting.”

This month, Prince Harry, 41, and Meghan Markle, 44, along with their children — Prince Archie, 7, and Princess Lilibet, 5 — reunited with King Charles and Queen Camilla for the first time in four years and the first since the monarch’s announcement that he has cancer.

Buckingham Palace confirmed that the reunion took place at Highgrove House, the monarch’s private country residence in Gloucestershire, England.

The last time Charles, 77, reunited with his grandkids was in 2022, when they attended Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee.

The visit has not been without hiccups.

Page Six exclusively reported the Sussexes were denied taxpayer-funded security and that Buckingham Palace withdrew its offer to let the couple stay at the royal residence, leaving Harry by himself for most of the trip.

Nicki Gostin

News OF THE World®

ITALY

Beachgoers may be losing their shirts over this new rule.

A village on Lake Como is slapping fines of up to $228 on pedestrians for being on the street barechested or in swimwear.

Varenna, which has 650 permanent residents, is only bending its strict sartorial rules on its beaches, piers and boat docks.

ARGENTINA

After their win over England in the World Cup semifinals, some of Argentina’s soccer players held up a banner in support of their country’s claim to the Falkland Islands.

The archipelago, known as “Islas Malvinas” in Spanish, was fought over in a 10-week war between Argentina and England in 1982, ending in a British victory.

The banner said, *“Las Malvinas son Argentinas”* (“The Falklands are Argentine”).

UAE

“Well” spent?

A $10.9 billion wellness island is being built. The Fahid Island development, which will boast over 6,000 homes, will focus on the physical and mental well-being of its residents.

The project is being spearheaded by a real estate development company owned by the Abu Dhabi government and is scheduled to be completed in 2029.

CANADA

They still want to have some old-fashioned fun.

After Sony announced it will stop manufacturing physical copies of PlayStation games by 2028, more than 320,000 people signed a petition made by a Winnipeg video game store to keep them in production.

PNP Games created the petition titled “Don’t Kill the Disc” to combat the switch to digital games.

“We definitely know that physical isn’t dead. We know there is demand,” Lee Skwarek, PNP’s products and promotions manager, told the CBC.

EGYPT

An Egyptian earned two Guinness World Records involving basketball in one day.

Alie Wessam, 21, took home the title for farthest basketball hook shot from a distance of 82 feet and 10 inches, as well as for farthest basketball shot made backwards from 90 feet and 6 inches.

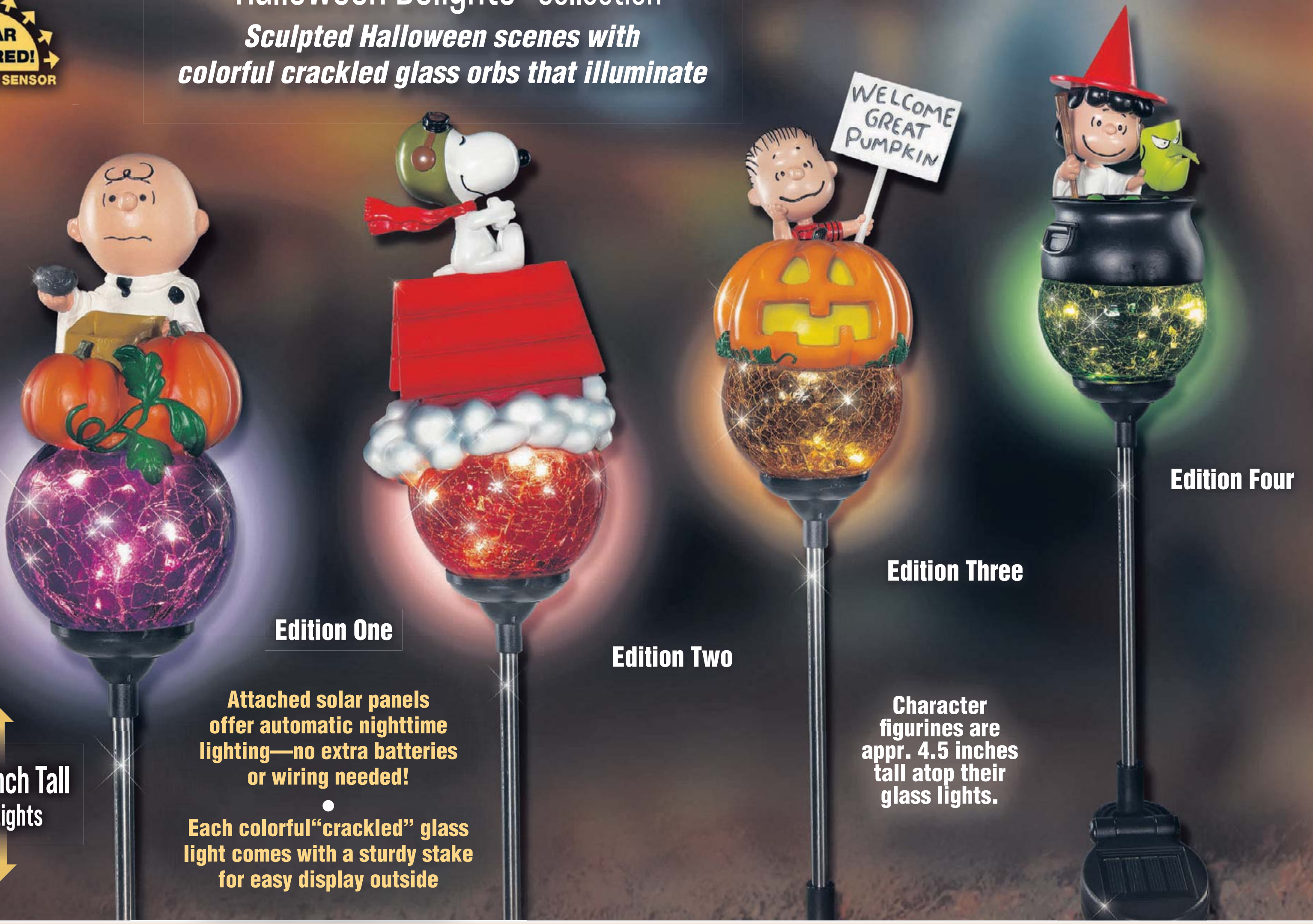
Angela Barbuti, Wires

Unique Solar-powered PEANUTS Path Lights

"Halloween Delights" Collection

Sculpted Halloween scenes with colorful crackled glass orbs that illuminate

SOLAR POWERED!
WITH LIGHT SENSOR



30½-inch Tall Solar Lights

Attached solar panels offer automatic nighttime lighting—no extra batteries or wiring needed!

•

Each colorful"crackled" glass light comes with a sturdy stake for easy display outside

Character figurines are appr. 4.5 inches tall atop their glass lights.

Since the debut of their classic Halloween special nearly 60 years ago, the Peanuts gang has been a beloved part of this favorite holiday, gaining a new audience each year while delighting longtime fans with their unique brand of storytelling and sweetness. Now the antics of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus and more inspire a new collection that will brighten the way to a happy Halloween year after year!

Hand-crafted with shimmering glass bases in blue, red, orange and green colors, finished with a decorative "crackle" effect, each solar path light is topped with a fully sculpted, hand-painted scene inspired by the Peanuts Halloween special. Beginning with Edition One, "I Got a Rock," each path light celebrates a different favorite character.

Solar lights automatically light up as evening nears

Made with simplicity in mind, these lights couldn't be easier to use. Simply place them into the ground along a pathway, near your drive, on either side of your steps. At 30 inches tall, they will become a highlight of your display. Act now to reserve the collection and lock in the issue price of $39.99 per path light (plus $9.99 shipping and service; see bradfordexchange.com), with your satisfaction guaranteed for one full year. You will receive subsequent editions through our VIP Plan detailed on the Reservation Application. Plesae don't wait, respond today!

© 2026 Peanuts Worldwide LLC www.peanuts.com
Licensed and Manufactured by The Bradford0
01-42702-001-NYPQR

SHOP TODAY AT BRADFORDEXCHANGE.COM

Innovative Art and Designs of Enduring Value

The Bradford Exchange
· Since 1973 ·

The Bradford Exchange
9345 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL 60714-1393

RESERVATION APPLICATION

YES! Please send me **"I Got a Rock,"** the first issue in the Collection, for my review through the VIP Plan. By returning this form, I agree to the following:

I will receive future items about once a month. I lock in the guaranteed low price for Issue One for every item regardless of inflation. I will be charged at the price detailed in this offer only when each item is shipped. This continues until the collection ends or I cancel. I may cancel at any time. There is no minimum purchase obligation.

Scan Here

Mrs. Mr. Ms. ____________________
Name (Please Print Clearly)
Address ____________________
City ____________ State ____________ Zip ____________
Email (optional) ____________________

924286-E22201

*See bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 2-4 weeks for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Listen Live @
STREAMING WORLDWIDE

WABC RADIO.COM

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE, EMAIL:
ADVERTISE @ WABCRADIO.COM

770 AM New York City • 107.1 FM Eastern Long Island
ONE OF NORTH AMERICA'S MOST POWERFUL RADIO STATIONS

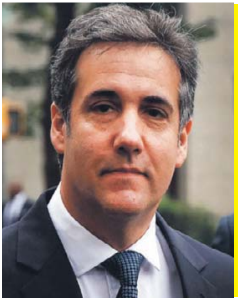
ENJOY OUR GREAT SUNDAY AFTERNOONS!

CINDY ADAMS

EVERY SUNDAY 2PM-3PM

EVERY SUNDAY 3PM-5PM

ROGER STONE



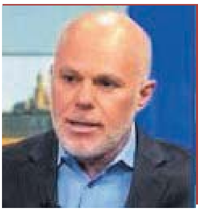
WELCOMING OUR NEWEST HOST!

MICHAEL COHEN

EVERY SUNDAY 5PM-6PM

EVERY SUNDAY 6PM-7PM

FERNANDO MATEO



JAKE NOVAK

EVERY SUNDAY 7PM-8PM

alexa ENABLE WABC RADIO. PLAY WABC RADIO.

DOWNLOAD THE 77 WABC RADIO APP
STREAM 77 WABC & MUSICRADIO 77

Available on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

@77WABC @77WABCRADIO @77WABCRADIO

Useless need for speed

Minnesota researchers have proved there's no "need for speed" after finding that driving too fast saves less than 60 seconds, per a rubber-burning study published in the Nature journal Communications Sustainability.

"If your goal is to shave one minute off your time, then you've got to drive fast," snarked study co-author William Northrop, a professor at the University of Minnesota, in a statement. "If your objective is to get to your destination safely and to save fuel, then you might drive slower than the speed limit."

Northrop and his team had reportedly set out to discover the effect that burning rubber has on fuel economy, time and emissions.

The team found that, contrary to what many speed demons would have you believe, driving at or below the speed limit only corresponded to around 54 seconds longer per day when the average daily distance was 28.6 miles. This extrapolates out to just over 6 minutes per week.

Researchers declared that the only thing that gas-holes accelerate is the decline of the ozone layer, estimating that ignoring speed limits wastes 7,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide every single day.

Ben Cost

Cop union hits CCRB

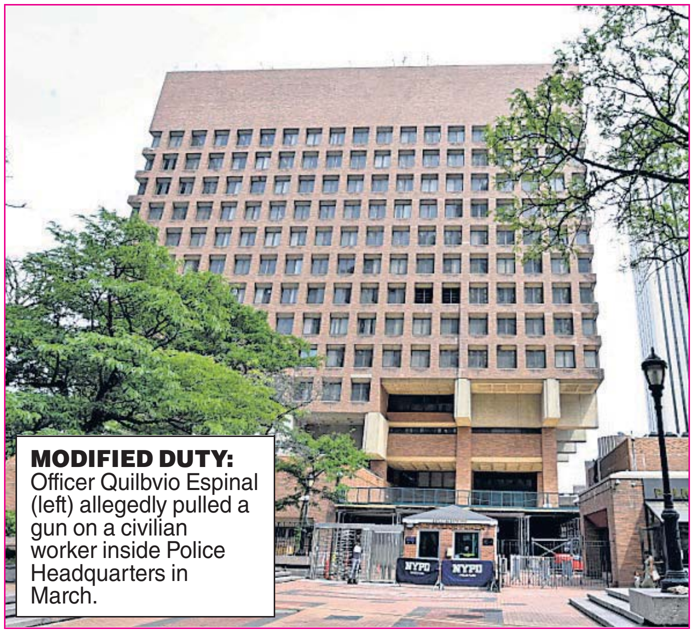
The city's detectives union put the Civilian Complaint Review Board on blast this week, displaying the names and photos of six "anti-cop activists" at the agency on a truck parked outside the group's NYC headquarters.

The six CCRB investigators at the purportedly unbiased agency previously made negative statements about cops on social media and in other past writings.

The CCRB told a group of City Council members in June that it was investigating the allegations. A board spokesman said Friday that the probe was ongoing.

Tina Moore

'SEXT' PISTOL SHOCK



MODIFIED DUTY: Officer Quilbvio Espinal (left) allegedly pulled a gun on a civilian worker inside Police Headquarters in March.

Steven Hirsch and Helayne Seidman

Gun cop's lawyer: HQ staffer played along

By TINA MOORE
Police Bureau Chief

An NYPD civilian employee who accused a cop of sexual harassment after he allegedly pulled a gun on her inside Police Headquarters exchanged explicit messages with the cop before the incident, the officer's lawyer claims.

Megan Kwan, 25, exchanged messages about sex and joked about creating an OnlyFans account featuring photos of Officer Quilbvio Espinal, 35, according to the motion filed Wednesday in Manhattan Supreme Court seeking access to her phone.

Using Facebook Messenger between 2025 and 2026, the pair exchanged "many flirtatious and sexual messages, referenced multiple sex acts, and posted graphic pictures and memes to each other," according to the court filing.

After the gun incident, Kwan sued the officer and his supervisor Sgt. Jayson Valentin — saying they sexually and racially harassed her. She accused both men of proposing threesomes — Espinal asked for one with his wife, the suit alleged.

Kwan, who is deaf, sent Espinal a screenshot of a tweet which read: "U Haven't heard some weird s--t until u f--k a deaf girl. Sounded like i was beating a baby seal," according to the court document.

Other messages involve oral sex and lewd references to preparing for a sexual encounter, according to the filing that demands Kwan "produce her cell phone for a forensic extraction of all photos and videos of Officer Espinal."

"Her own texts shed a spotlight on the truth about their relationship and that spotlight shows that Officer Espinal never would have done anything to put this sexting partner in fear of physical harm," the cop's lawyer, Robert Gottlieb, said, claiming that prosecutors turned over 200 pages of messages the two exchanged.

'OnlyFans account'

Espinal shared a meme of a suggestively shaped pastry with icing, to which Kwan allegedly made a vulgar response, "Can't waste no drip drip," according to the documents.

In one Feb. 19 message, Kwan reported that she had "enough photos of [Officer Espinal] to create an OF account," which is believed to be an abbreviation for OnlyFans, a website dedicated to user-created pornography, the suit states.

"She also told Officer Espinal that she would use Chinese artificial intelligence technology to analyze the multiple digital depictions that she has of him in order to create computer generated pornographic representations of him for this website," per the filing.

Espinal is facing menacing and official misconduct charges and pleaded not guilty. He was placed on modified duty, which means his gun and shield were removed.

Kwan said she started working at the department as a college intern in 2021 and became full-time in its IT department in 2025.

Kwan's lawyer, John Scola, said Espinal repeatedly told her he wanted an "Asian wife," called her his "baby momma," and boasted of his "Asian fetish," sending her pornographic and racist videos.

"A sworn police officer pointed a loaded, department-issued firearm at my client — a deaf civilian he outranked — inside their workplace, and he was indicted for it," Scola said.

Artificial sweets have a yucky gut reaction

That guilt-free treat may not be as innocent as it seems.

A study suggests alternative sweeteners commonly found in sugar-free and low-calorie foods and beverages may interfere with the growth of bacteria that help keep the gut healthy.

Researchers found more than 100 cases in which these ingredients behaved differently when combined with other substances. The complex community of bacteria and other microorganisms living in your intestines plays a key role in digestion, immunity and metabolism.

University of Cambridge scientists grew 25 different bacterial species in a lab. The cultures included microbes considered beneficial, neutral or potentially harmful to the gut. The team then exposed the bacteria to 39 natural and artificial sweeteners and tracked how quickly the organisms multiplied.

They found that about three-quarters of the sweeteners affected the growth of at least one bacterial species. Several slowed down or completely stopped the growth of bacteria linked to a healthy digestive system.

But the research doesn't prove that sweeteners directly cause harm in people.

McKenzie Beard

Gristedes

D'AGNYC

WASHINGTON STATE · PEAK SEASON

CHERRIES

NOW IN SEASON — FRESH IN OUR PRODUCE AISLE

SCIENCE-BACKED NUTRITION

Four reasons cherries belong in your cart

ANTIOXIDANTS

1 Antioxidant Power

The deep-red anthocyanins that give cherries their color are potent antioxidants that may help combat free radicals and oxidative stress.

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY

Calms Inflammation 2

In clinical research, eating sweet Bing cherries lowered key markers of inflammation, including C-reactive protein, in healthy adults.

CARDIOVASCULAR

3 Heart Health

Cherry polyphenols plus potassium support healthy circulation, and higher anthocyanin intake is linked to lower heart-disease risk.

REST & RECOVERY

Restful Sleep 4

Cherries are one of the few natural food sources of melatonin, the hormone that helps regulate your sleep-wake cycle.

Scan to Shop

Order online at
gristedes.com
Or visit any Gristedes location

Scan to Shop

Order online at
dagnyc.com
Or visit any D'Agostino location

This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice. Product availability may vary by location.

AFRI-GONERS

Anti-immigration gangs are going door to door in South Africa to kick out migrants. The roots of this xenophobia are socialist

Supporters of the South African anti-immigrant group March and March hold a rally this month, while other protesters personally search for migrants (inset).

Reuters, Getty Images

JOEL POLLAK

SOUTH Africa is one of the most xenophobic societies in the world.

For the past few weeks, anti-immigrant South Africans have been holding protests, and some have gone door to door, demanding that any illegal immigrants on the premises be deported.

When I related these facts to some friends in San Francisco, they looked at each other and asked me: How is that any different from what is happening here?

The answer: American border enforcement, unlike South African vigilantism, reinforces the rule of law.

The US has immigration laws. It is completely within the power and capability of the federal government to enforce them.

One party (the Democrats) has chosen not to enforce them, hoping to reap future political gains if migrants become citizens.

The other party (the Republicans) is split, with a business constituency that favors open borders for cheap labor and a border security faction that wants laws enforced.

The border security faction was marginalized for many years, but is now — against all odds — in charge of the country, through the presidency of Donald Trump. Trump is enforcing laws on the books, often in the face of strident opposition.

But note what is not happening: American citizens are not taking the law into their own hands.

Even at the height of the Minuteman Project, the most civilians did was station observers at the southern border.

South Africa has similar migration problems. For decades, it had a closed northern border. The closure went both ways: apartheid South Africa was (justifiably) a pariah, and few African states wanted anything to do with it.

But after 1994, the exiled opposition came back, and the new government relaxed the border controls. Suddenly, there was an influx of migrants — and no wonder: South Africa was (and remains) sub-Saharan Africa's richest nation.

Yet at the same time, there was a massive crime wave in South Africa, one that has continued to this day. Much of the crime was home-grown, but a significant portion was tied to foreign syndicates.

The new South African government failed to rise to the challenge. The once-feared police, which had specialized in enforcing racial segregation, was not up to the everyday task of fighting crime.

And the ruling party, the African National Congress, which had almost mythological status due to its fight against apartheid, succumbed to the temptations of power. It became corrupt, and allowed the criminal underworld to penetrate the highest levels of policing and policymaking.

Ordinary South Africans were, and remain, frustrated with this situation. But they also have no faith in law enforcement. So vigilantism is becoming common, especially in poor communities.

That is partly why black South Africans have carried out mob violence against black African foreigners.

In addition, centuries of racial discrimination have trained South Africans — including, tragically and ironically, black South Africans — to think in terms of stereotypes, and to appeal to group identity in competing for resources.

But there is an additional factor that makes xenophobia a persistent problem. It is the habit South Africans have developed of thinking of economics as a zero-sum game.

If someone has wealth, they are seen as having taken it from someone else, no matter how they actually acquired it. If immigrants have jobs or businesses, they are seen as having taken something from South Africans, even if the latter did no work and risked no capital.

This kind of zero-sum thinking is not confined to Third World societies. It is partly a Western import. It is the heart of Marxism — which is practiced, more fashionably, as "democratic socialism" today.

Before Graham Platner crashed out of the Senate race in Maine, Democrats cheered when he said that the world's first trillionaire, Elon Musk, should also be the last. Platner's allies are busy pushing a "billionaire tax" that is destroying wealth in California.

At the core of it all is the primitive force of envy, as old as Cain and Abel. Americans are no different than other human beings, but our culture embraces what Alexis de Tocqueville once described as "self-interest properly understood." This is the idea that individuals can help their communities by excelling in their chosen path.

Your success enriches me — and mine, you. This is the opposite of socialism. It is something South Africa's post-apartheid regime does not understand.

So the xenophobia we are witnessing in South Africa, while primitive, is not unfamiliar. It is what happened, in living memory, in Europe, when nationalism combined with socialism.

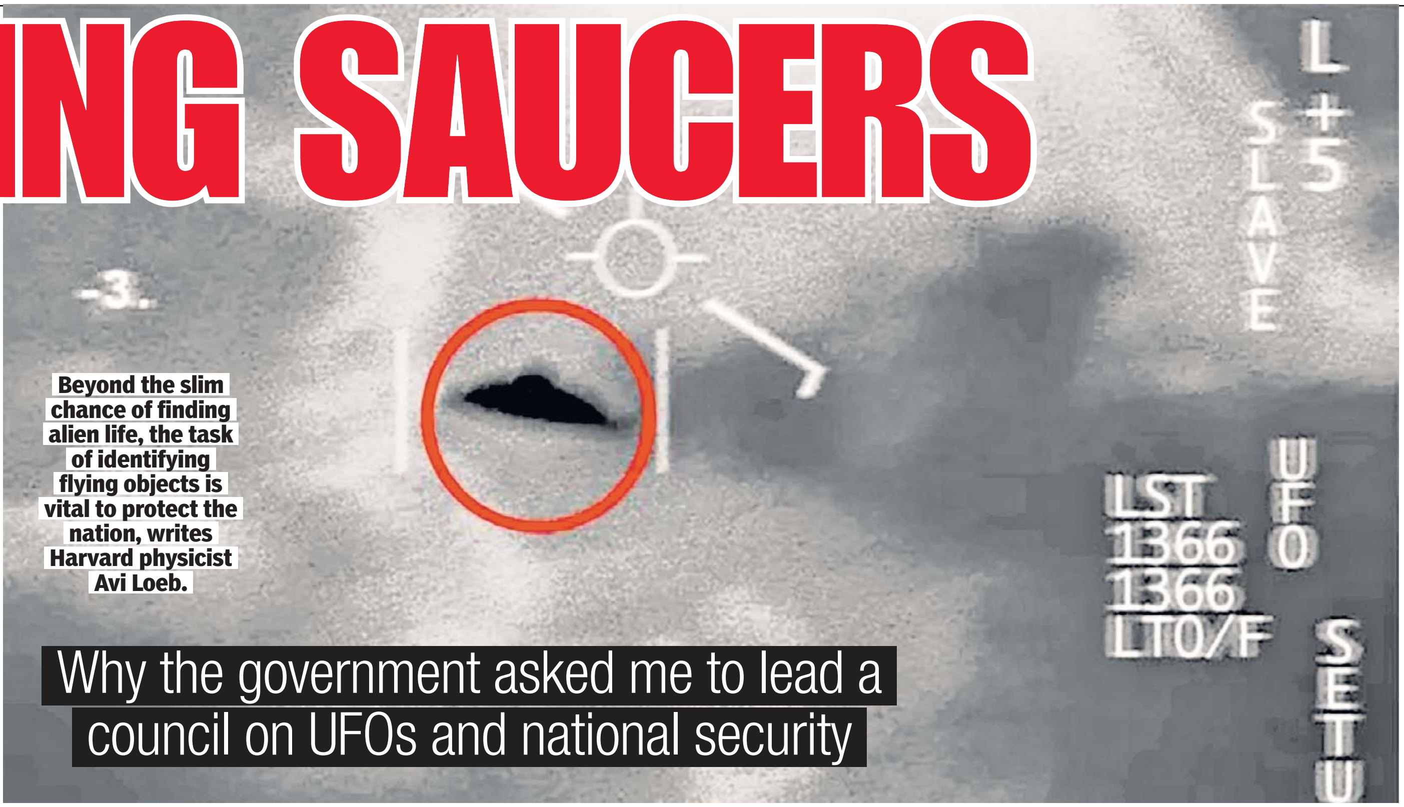
Thank God America has a president who is committed to enforcing immigration laws and protecting our border. Thank God Americans are the most tolerant people in the world.

And thank God there are still enough of us who realize that economic freedom is far more humane than socialism can ever be.

Joel Pollak is the Opinion editor of the California Post.

My secret war on ISIS
P. 38-39

SPYING SAUCERS



Department of War, Courtesy of Avi Loeb

Beyond the slim chance of finding alien life, the task of identifying flying objects is vital to protect the nation, writes Harvard physicist Avi Loeb.

Why the government asked me to lead a council on UFOs and national security

A month ago, I was visited by a representative from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He raised a simple question.

"Would you be willing to establish and lead a new advisory council for the US government on the science of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena?" In other words, would I head a council on UFOs. I responded: "You had me at 'hello.' "

There was no doubt in my mind that I should accept this role. Our goal is to advise the US government on how to resolve the nature of UAP.

The identification of UAP is crucial to the protection of national security. As a US citizen, I feel obligated to help the ODNI and the Pentagon in this mission. Moreover, if one in a million UAP happens to have a non-human origin, this will constitute the biggest cosmic discovery ever made by humanity.

AVI LOEB

The request from ODNI was unusual for several reasons. First, how often do government employees admit they cannot fulfill their duties and ask scientists for help? Second, implicit in the request was the admission that the US military's best sensors are currently unable to adequately identify flying objects. The most plausible explanation for these mysteries is that they are manufactured by adversarial nations. That makes them a security threat. Why can't we identify them?

We know about the Chinese spy balloon that was shot down in 2023. When you find an ant in the kitchen, you become alarmed because you realize many more ants must be crawling nearby. For every one spy balloon we know about, there must be many objects that were flagged as UAP orbs.

The government is constantly monitoring the entire sky. It struggles to interpret all the signals picked up by its many advanced sensors. But history tells us that these sensors contain invaluable information. That's where scientists come in.

For example, in the early 1960s the Air Force and the Advanced Research Projects Agency developed the Vela satellite program. Its purpose was to verify Soviet compliance with the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty, which prohibited nuclear-weapons tests in the atmosphere, underwater and in space. To catch the Soviet Union cheating, the satellites were equipped with gamma-ray sensors designed to detect the radiation flash of a nuclear explosion.

On July 2, 1967, the Vela 4 satellite pair detected a burst of gamma radiation that looked nothing like a nuclear explosion. It was too bright, too short and had the wrong spectral shape. Subsequently, Los Alamos scientists found 16 similar events in the archived Vela data. Researchers puzzled over the findings for decades. Some wondered if the radiation came from alien sources, or a dangerous new Soviet technology.

A quarter of a century later, astronomers realized that long-duration gamma-ray bursts originated from the collapse of a massive star to a black hole. As material spirals toward the black hole, it launches two opposing jets near the speed of light. Each jet drills a hole in the collapsing star and emits a flash of gamma rays. We realized that these were the enigmatic bursts the Vela satellites were detecting. In other words, the Vela satellites discovered the birth of black holes at the edge of the universe while looking for Soviet detonations near Earth.

Our council hopes to make many more such discoveries that will improve national security and our understanding of the cosmos. The team has already submitted a request for more than 50 items of information concerning past UAP incidents and possible related materials. Our scientific analysis and findings will be shared publicly on the website uapsac.com.

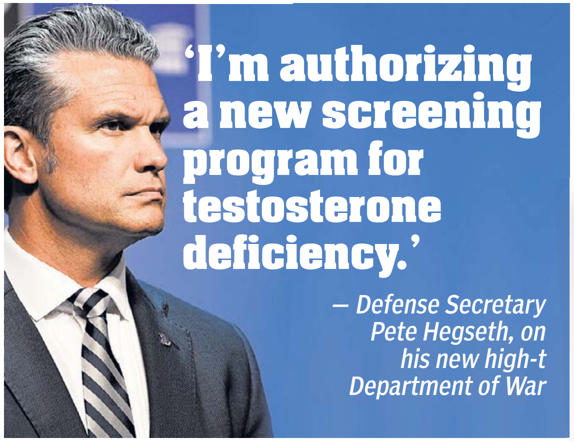
I chose the size and makeup of the council carefully. It is not so small as to lack sufficient expertise nor too big as to trigger regression to the mean. I selected brilliant scientists with expertise in physics, oceanography, data analysis, statistics and psychology. All are open-minded enough to go wherever the evidence guides us. I also included a skeptic of alien technologies to ensure there are no biases in the analysis and to make sure our conclusions are beyond doubt.

The council is not starting with any conclusion in mind. The "Unknown" part of UAP does not necessarily mean extraterrestrial. But we cannot discount the possibility that it might, and we should not explain away such possibilities without evidence.

The nature of UAP is a detective story. We will solve it by collecting new clues and reexamining old ones in new ways. I will do my best to overcome the anti-science sentiments expressed too often by believers and skeptics alike. The best is yet to come!

Avi Loeb is the Frank B. Baird, Jr., Professor of Science at Harvard University and has been appointed to lead the Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Science Advisory Council.

Chatter



'I'm authorizing a new screening program for testosterone deficiency.'

— Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, on his new high-t Department of War

'Let his death not be in vain.'

— Deepak Mahajan, father of teen killed in horse-carriage accident, tells the City Council

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS of AMERICA

'Abolish the Senate. Abolish the Electoral College.'

— The DSA's radical goals outlined in a new manifesto

'It is such a privilege to get to finish some of his important work.'

— Darline Graham on completing late brother Lindsey Graham's Senate term

Jack in the box

The special prosecutor's snooping through texts between congressmen may have violated the Constitution's most important principles

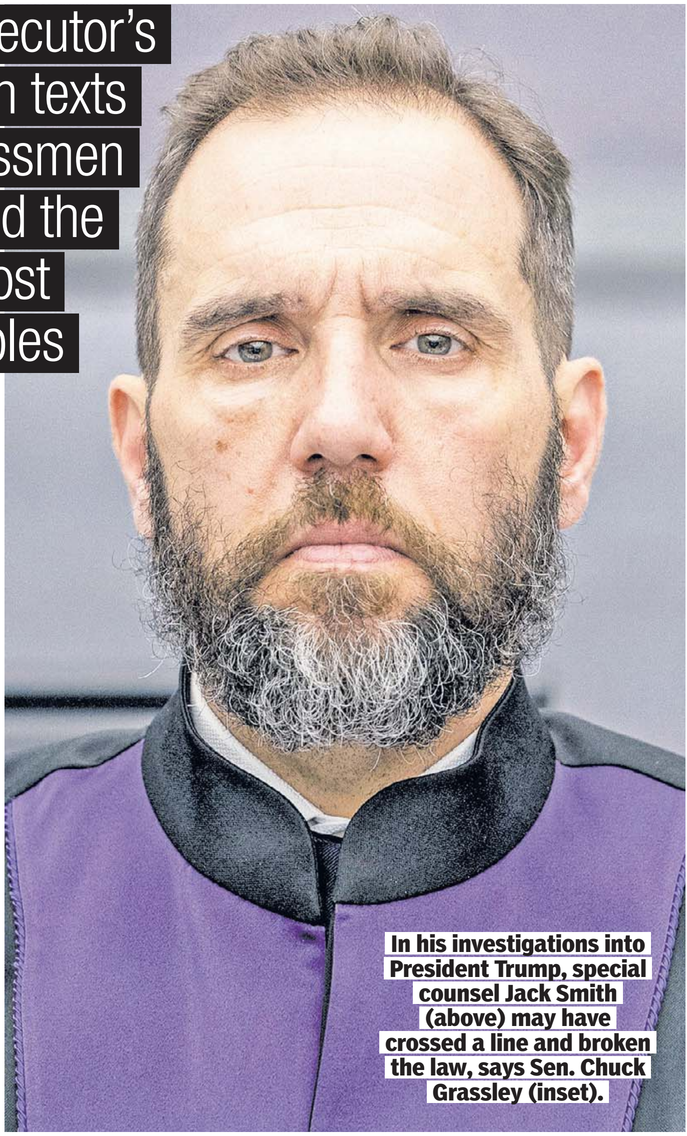
ARI HOFFMAN

WAS special counsel Jack Smith's prosecution of President Trump a "runaway train with no brakes"?

That's the phrase used by Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) as he revealed that Smith obtained text messages to and from 44 lawmakers — including some Democrats — as part of his prosecution of the president.

The National Archives turned over the texts to Smith in August 2023. The nonagenarian Grassley declares that Smith "ran roughshod over the Constitution."

Violating America's charter is the accusation that Smith levied at Trump, whom he charged with an obscure crime called "conspiracy against rights." That civil-rights statute was first passed in the 1870s to combat the Ku Klux Klan. Smith argued Trump's shenanigans in the wake of the 2020 election amounted to an effort to deprive Americans of their right to vote.



In his investigations into President Trump, special counsel Jack Smith (above) may have crossed a line and broken the law, says Sen. Chuck Grassley (inset).

Getty Images (2)

Smith was similarly reliant on a hoary statute from another age in his prosecution of Trump for the retention of classified documents. The former war-crimes prosecutor at the Hague alleged dozens of violations of the 1917 Espionage Act. That's the same statute that sent Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to the electric chair as Soviet spies.

We'll never know if Smith could have stuck the landing on any of those exotic charges — if he had, Trump would be in the big house rather than the White House. Smith still claims he would have convicted Trump "but for" the election.

Now, though, it is the prosecutor who is feeling the heat. His sprawling investigation into Jan. 6 — code-named "Operation Arctic Frost" after a satsuma mandarin hybrid of a distinctly orange hue — swept up the comprehensive telephone metadata of 14 GOP members of Congress. A trove of text messages from dozens of other lawmakers was also included.

The rub, though, is that the Constitution gives ironclad protection to lawmakers — the framers had seen all they needed to see about what happens when executive power runs amok. The Speech or Debate Clause promises senators and representatives that "for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place." It is as absolute a protection — and as strict a command — as can be found in the Constitution.

The Supreme Court explained in Doe v. McMillan that this immunity is driven by the belief that the "business of Congress is to legislate; Congressmen and aides are absolutely immune when they are legislating." The notion of such protection stretches way back to England's Glorious Revolution of 1689. It's as close to constitutional bedrock as you can strike.

Did Smith's snooping subvert it? Internal records unearthed by Grassley show that the DOJ was concerned with whether the clause precluded their surveillance. The question was raised and shunted aside. When Smith was deposed by Congress in December, he declared, "My office and I personally take the protections of the Speech or Debate Clause seriously. I think they're part of our Constitution." Doth the prosecutor, though, protest too much?

"Jack Smith has answering to do" is how Grassley puts his desire to once again summon the prosecutor to the stand. For his part Smith has increasingly taken shots at Trump in the press, alleging that the president has "corrupted" the DOJ. Smith crows that he "will not be intimidated" and that he expects to be charged himself.

That prospect was raised by Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.), who during confirmation hearings for acting Attorney General Todd Blanche declared that "Jack Smith should be subject to prosecution for lying to Congress." During that same December deposition — conducted under oath — Smith was asked, "Did you seek a search warrant for the content of any text messages from Members?" He answered, "No, I don't recall that." When asked if he stopped short of searching texts, he responded "Correct."

That does not appear to have been true. Smith could soon be required to brush up on another section of the Constitution that he is used to seeing from the other side of the courtroom — the Fifth and Sixth Amendment's protections offered to criminal defendants.

Ari Hoffman is the associate editor of The New York Sun, where he covers politics and culture.

WEIGHT-LOSS GAINS

GLP-1 weight-loss drug use reached a new record high in the US:

11%

currently use GLP-1

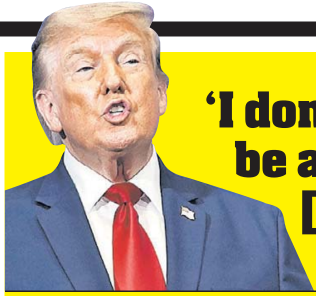
Source: Gallup

'Far-left political terrorism . . . is not a fiction manufactured by conservative politicians.'

— Secretary of State Marco Rubio, speaking about the rise of leftist political violence

---

HORMUZ BLUES



'I don't think anybody should be able to charge for the [Strait of Hormuz].'

— President Trump after nixing a proposed toll

'Anybody with a firing rifle can interrupt the shipping.'

— A source on the Houthis' threat to block the Red Sea

RED DAWN

China has surpassed the US in global favorability ratings.

2026

China:
46% favorable

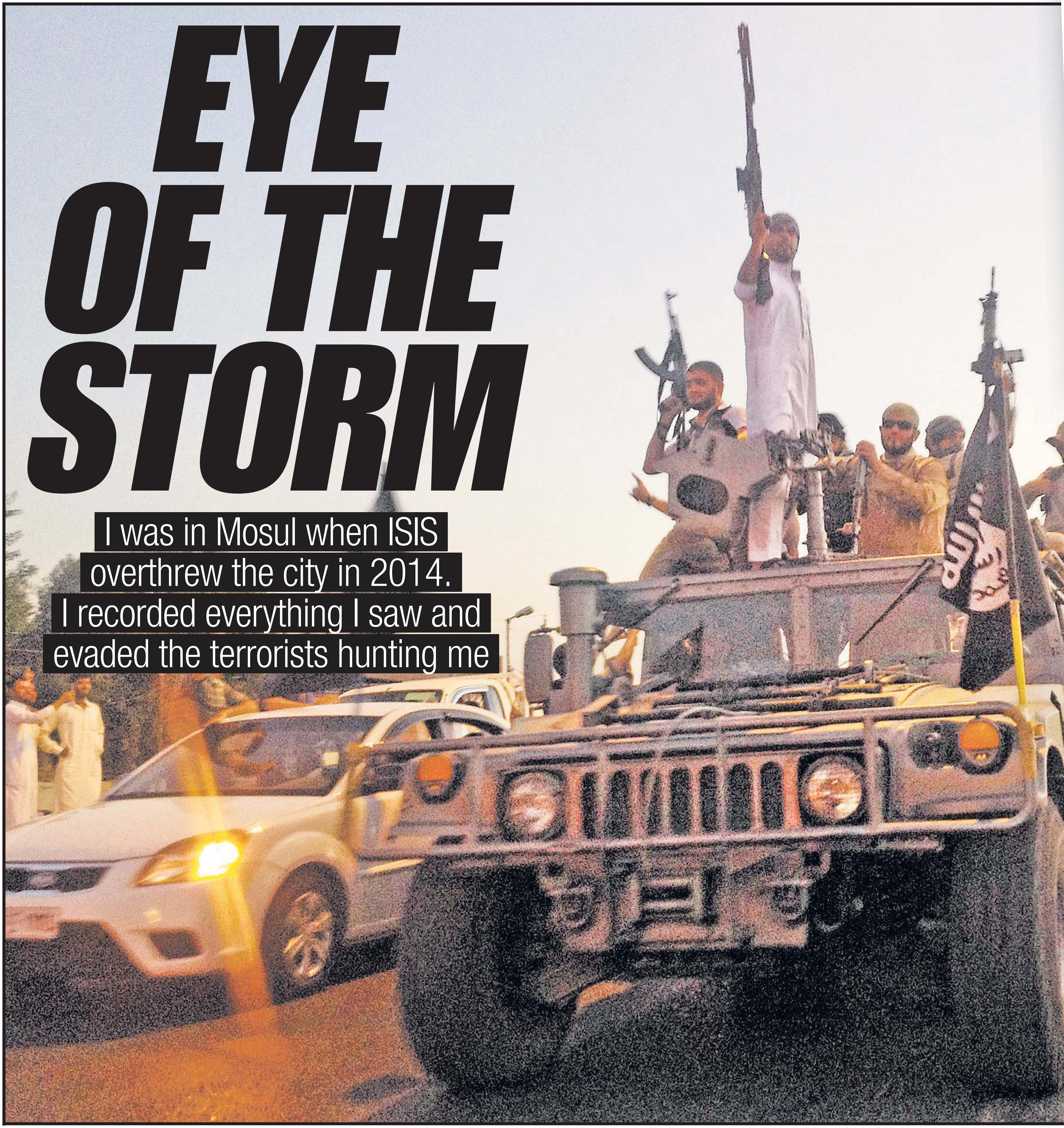
US:
36% favorable

2023

China:
32% favorable

US:
58% favorable

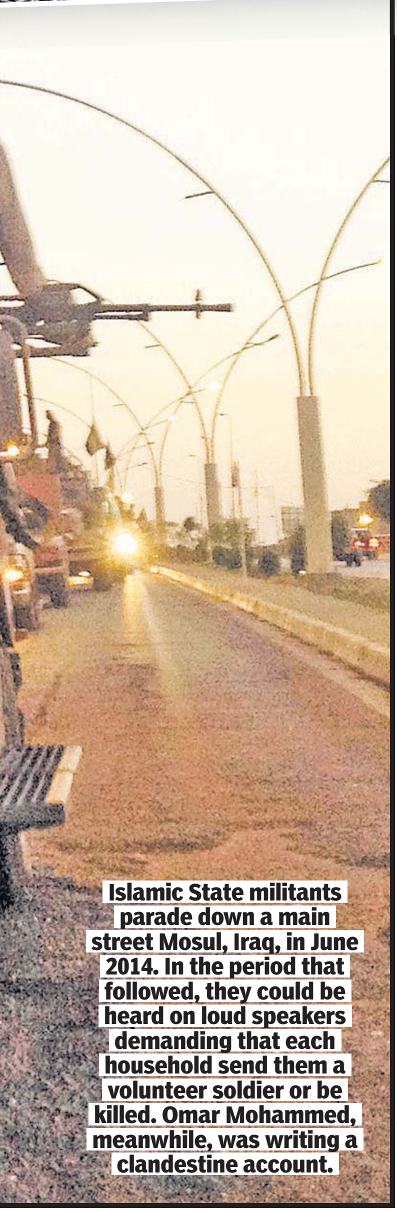
Source: Pew



EYE OF THE STORM

I was in Mosul when ISIS overthrew the city in 2014. I recorded everything I saw and evaded the terrorists hunting me

The University of Mosul (left), where Omar Mohammed worked as a historian, was destroyed by ISIS, which also targeted historical sites, like the eighth-century Sufi shrine al-Fatih al-Mosuli (bottom), seen as a threat to its narrative.



Islamic State militants parade down a main street Mosul, Iraq, in June 2014. In the period that followed, they could be heard on loud speakers demanding that each household send them a volunteer soldier or be killed. Omar Mohammed, meanwhile, was writing a clandestine account.

AP; Getty Images, Wikipedia

ON June 10, 2014, the city of Mosul — Iraq's second largest, home to nearly 2 million people, built on and around the ruins of the Assyrian capital Nineveh — fell to the Islamic State in a single night. The Iraqi Army dissolved. Soldiers abandoned their uniforms in the streets. By morning, a city that had been continuously inhabited for 7,000 years belonged to a force that intended to abolish everything it had been.

I was inside the city when it fell. I am a historian. When ISIS took Mosul, I made a choice that would define the next three years of my life and reshape everything I understood about myself: I stayed. I documented. I refused to let the occupiers become the sole authors of what was happening to my city.

OMAR MOHAMMED

I was at the University of Mosul when the order came. The security forces issued clear instructions: Everyone must go home. We began running. It is never safe to stay on the streets when Mosul locks down, and even before I understood why this curfew felt different from the others, I could see it in the faces of the people around me. They were not moving with the annoyed haste of people managing another interruption. The sky was dusty and red.

In the early morning hours of June 10 — while gunfire still sounded from the western districts — I had posted on my personal Facebook page, simply noting that I could hear the attacks. A friend messaged me within minutes, warning that I was risking everything.

He was right. I did not stop taking notes, but I stopped posting under my own name. The observation continued; the exposure did not. That shift — from public voice to hidden recorder — was the first step toward what came next, though I did not yet understand where it would lead.

By the afternoon of June 17, I created an anonymous blog on WordPress and wrote the words that mark the real beginning of "Mosul Eye: A Scholar's Clandestine War Against ISIS." I chose the name Mosul Eye because I wanted the city to have an eye that saw what was being done to it — an eye that could not be closed by the men who were trying to replace its memory with their own.

MY hand was steady as I typed. The rest of me was not. What I witnessed that day was difficult to express. There were many fabrications and false stories being spread by the media, contradicted by reality on the ground. My work as a historian required an unbiased approach. I would keep my personal opinion to myself. I would communicate only the facts I saw. That was not an aesthetic preference. It was a discipline for survival and truth.

One of the armed occupiers gave me a version of events that stayed with me. Their entrance into Mosul, he said, had been planned as a revenge mission. They prepared explosives to secure their withdrawal and expected to remain for two days at most. The collapse of the Iraqi Army had not been expected. But the road opened in front of them, so they did not stop. He called it a liberation like the liberation of Mecca — invoking the Prophet Muhammad's conquest of that city, framing what had happened as the fulfillment of religious destiny.

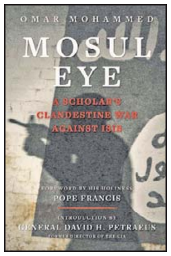
The former Counter-Terrorism Center became the main ISIS headquarters. A few of the Arab fighters I had seen in the early days — Tunisians and Algerians who came to Mosul from abroad — were guarding its gates. One of them was white-haired, in his sixties, carrying a pistol at his waist.

Near the University of Mosul, on a public television set mounted in the street, an ISIS video played continuously, showing killings and kidnappings carried out on the Mosul-Baghdad road.

On the evening of June 21, an ISIS fighter drove through a neighborhood with a loudspeaker mounted to his vehicle, announcing that every household was required to send a volunteer to join ISIS forces. The phrasing was precise: Join, defend, live in dignity and honor — or face death.

What I feared was not simply death or occupation in the narrow military sense. I feared civil collapse — the destruction of the conditions under which Mosul could still think of itself as a city belonging to history rather than to sect, revenge and barbarism.

What ISIS was doing was not only military conquest. It was the systematic dismantling of the arrangements that made that coexistence possible, however imperfectly.



OMAR MOHAMMED
MOSUL EYE
A SCHOLAR'S CLANDESTINE WAR AGAINST ISIS
FOREWORD BY HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
INTRODUCTION BY GENERAL DAVID H. PETRAEUS
FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CIA

I continued checking rumors, because falsehood was becoming another front in the battle. Rumors circulated that the Mufti of Mosul — the senior Islamic religious authority in the city — was killed by ISIS. I contacted a member of his family and confirmed that he had in fact left Iraq several days before the crisis and was in Qatar.

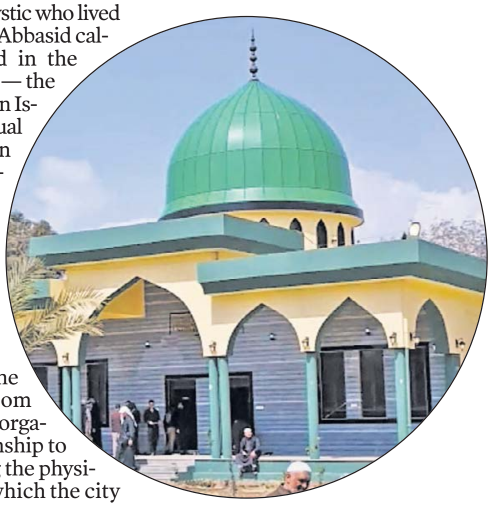
False atrocity stories, false reassurances, false claims of protection, false reports of siege, false moral panics — Mosul was drowning in all of them, and the drowning served ISIS as much as any of its other tactics. When the population cannot distinguish truth from fabrication, when fear attaches to rumors that have no basis alongside fears that are entirely justified, the result is a kind of paralysis that benefits whoever holds the guns.

To document the city truthfully meant resisting both the lies of ISIS and the sensational fantasies of those outside it.

IN the city, ISIS began destroying historical, religious sites. On June 24, the demolition of al-Fatih al-Mosuli began. The shrine, known locally as al-Sheikh Fathi, was pulled down with cranes working in darkness.

Al-Fatih was a Sufi mystic who lived during the reign of the Abbasid caliph Haroun al-Rashid in the eighth century. Sufism — the mystical tradition within Islam, emphasizing spiritual experience and devotion to saints — was precisely what ISIS, with its rigid scriptural literalism, regarded as idolatry. The shrine had been a place of Sufi pilgrimage for more than seven centuries.

The destruction of the shrines was not random vandalism. ISIS was reorganizing Mosul's relationship to its own past, removing the physical markers through which the city remembered itself.



I stayed in Mosul not because I was unafraid — I was afraid every day for 18 months, afraid in the specific and draining way of someone who lives with the permanent knowledge of what happens if they are found, a knowledge that becomes the background radiation of every waking moment without ever becoming ordinary.

I stayed because I understood what cities need when they are taken: They need someone who will remember them accurately. Not heroically. Accurately. Someone who will write down the name of the man executed in the public square and the name of the square and the stated charge and the date and the number of people compelled to watch. Someone who will record the price of bread and the closing of the schools and the burning of the library and the empty Christian quarter and the executions after prayers. Someone who will not let the conquerors write the only history.

I did not know then what that choice would demand of me. I did not know how long I would have to continue, how elaborate concealment would become or how many layers of fear would settle over daily life.

I did not know the names that would later dominate Mosul, the systems that would harden out of those first checkpoints and councils, the punishments that would make private thought dangerous, or the number of dead who would disappear into rumor and category unless someone insisted on fact.

I only knew that Mosul was occupied, that memory was already under attack, that reality itself was being falsified in real time, and that if someone inside the city did not start recording carefully, the occupiers would inherit not only the streets but the narrative.

Mosul had not disappeared into nothing. It had disappeared into another order.

Adapted from "Mosul Eye: A Scholar's Clandestine War Against ISIS" (Skyhorse,), out Tuesday.

NEW YORK POST
AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

Take Back the Museums

Excellent: House Republicans called National Museum of American History Director Anthea Hartig to testify Tuesday about the NMAH's "political tendentious" exhibits — in what should be the next step in breaking our cultural institutions out of their painfully woke fever.

This follows up on the damning July 4 report laying out how far left Hartig's institution has swung:

- It holds "no major exhibit dedicated to America's Founding era, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, other Founding Fathers, the Continental Congress, the Pilgrims, the Puritans, or major moments of the American Revolution."
- Museum leaders axed the phrases "infinite richness" and "American history" from its mission statement in order, per Hartig, to "get out of the 'America First' mentality." Yes: The National Museum of *American History* took "American history" out of its mission statement.
- Staff are under orders to tie exhibits back to seven "core issues of our time": race/identity, gender/sexuality, climate change, immigration/migrations, economic inequality, technological change, and nationalism/globalism.

Central facts of US history and anything that might bring pride in our country, out; lefty obsessions and America-is-monstrous nonsense, in. This, in a branch of the Smithsonian that gets 62% of its funding from tax dollars.

Worse, museums across America have gone down this demented path. In 2020, during the heights of Floyd-a-mania, the National Museum of African American History and Culture produced an online exhibit about "whiteness" insisting that individualism, hard work, respect for authority, and delayed gratification are all somehow "aspects of whiteness."

Here in New York City, the Natural History Museum famously took down a statue of Theodore Roosevelt as a sop to lefty activists. In 2023 it started warning pregnant and menstruating women to stay away from certain indigenous "objects of power" entirely so as not to offend Native Americans — and then the museum began killing whole exhibits over these issues.

Museums from New Orleans to Indianapolis bent the knee and scurried to engage in race-based hiring and acquisition quotas under the guise of "equity" starting in 2020.

The public needs to take these institutions back from the lunatics who've colonized them. Congress must make it clear that the purpose of taxpayer-funded museums is to educate, not to indoctrinate, and that administrators and staff who refuse to follow that basic principle will face fiscal and professional consequences. A wider DOGE-style audit of just where tax dollars end up at museums across the country is very much in order as well.

Crucially, all this might begin to address another civic crisis — the total collapse of pride in country among independents and Democrats. Museums are one important index of a nation's health. It's long past time to cure ourselves of this woke sickness.

Get Khalil Gone Already

Columbia anti-Israel agitator Mahmoud Khalil last week reminded everyone that he *still* hasn't been deported — by filing a lawsuit that basically says the drive to send him home is . . . a Jewish conspiracy.

Yep: His suit accuses "several avowedly anti-Palestinian private actors and high-level federal government officials" of "jointly carrying out a conspiracy" against him and other terror-lovers. Supposedly, work exposing pro-Palestinian advocacy as really nothing more than Jew-hate and support for terrorist violence is really about targeting such advocates "for federal officials to punish."

Yet such legal reaches are why Khalil is still in this country, and not even detained by ICE. He was hit with a final deportation order in April, and a federal appeals court refused to hear arguments that he should go free until all his litigation is resolved — but granted a stay pending Supreme Court review of its decision.

Khalil has been in the US since 2022 on a student visa; after Oct. 7, 2023, he threw in his lot with the savages of Hamas in the Columbia tentifada, regularly making the media rounds to blame the victims. Last year, the State Department acted to remove him, charging he'd committed immigration fraud in his 2024 application to change his visa status by failing to mention his Hamas connections and association with Columbia University Apartheid Divest, which is openly anti-American.

For all the screams about violations of his rights, Khalil's case shows precisely the opposite. Though he's a terrorist sympathizer and accused immigration fraudster, our courts keep handing him endless opportunities to relitigate his status.

Rather than try to repay with his talent and energy the country that so graciously gave him the most-sought after privilege in the world, permission to reside in America, Khalil dedicated himself to the celebration of Third World barbarism, to aiding and comforting our enemies.

That he was granted a green card at all is a testament to America's generosity, as is the endless due process he has received.

His latest obscene lawsuit just proves again how much he hates our values, how eager he is to abuse our freedoms. It's time for him to find a home in a country he doesn't hold in contempt.

The New York Post is published by N.Y.P. Holdings Inc.
1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036

Chair **Lachlan Murdoch**
Publisher **Sean M. Giancola**
Print Editor-in-Chief **Stephen Lynch**
Chairman Emeritus **Rupert Murdoch**
Editor-in-Chief **Keith Poole**
Editorial Page Editor **Mark Cunningham**

SHIFTING SANDY

The Brits' incoming prime minister, Andy Burnham, is a human wind sock

TOM SLATER

WHO is Andy Burnham? It's something Anglophiles the world over will be asking next week, when the newly elected Labour MP becomes prime minister of the United Kingdom. The trouble is, I'm not sure even Andy Burnham knows the answer to that question.

Burnham is about to become my country's seventh prime minister in 10 years — a level of churn that is beginning to make Giorgia Meloni's Italy, which once had a reputation for changing its government more often than some would change their underwear, look like a haven of stability.

But Brits hoping for a fresh start, perhaps even a bit of vision and principle to steer us through these troubled times, are bound to be disappointed. Like Keir Starmer, whose premiership was defined by so many policy U-turns he might as well have been doing donuts, Burnham is the walking, talking embodiment of the Groucho Marx line: "These are my principles. If you don't like them, well, I have others."

From across the pond, it might seem like Burnham has come out of nowhere. He has been in the House of Commons representing Makerfield for little more than four weeks. His express intent in running was to topple Starmer and snatch the keys to Downing Street.

In truth, he's been loitering in the corridors of power for almost three decades. He was first elected to parliament in 2001, serving as a minister under Tony Blair and in the Cabinet of Gordon Brown. He made two unsuccessful tilts at the leadership — losing last time around to crusty left-winger Jeremy Corbyn — before he remade himself as mayor of Greater Manchester, where he served for nine years, earning him the obsequious moniker, the King of the North.

Burnham is now trying to veer left — declaring an end to "neoliberalism," calling for "more public control" of water and energy companies and posturing against Israel. This is the same Burnham who was once at the heart of New Labour's "centrist" takeover of the party and said, when he last tried to become its leader, that his first foreign visit would be to the Jewish State.

People change their mind, of course, but few do so as swiftly and as frequently as Burnham. The man is a human wind sock. Last year, he said he wanted to rejoin the European Union, sticking two fingers up to the millions of working-class voters who backed Brexit 10 years ago. Now he's had to walk that back, given that his new constituency voted overwhelmingly for Leave. He blindly supported the trans madness — and the right of men to

Andy Burnham (left), the so-called King of the North, lauded for a supposed revival of Manchester (below), is set to replace Keir Starmer (right inset) as prime minster while Labour fends off the Reform movement of Nigel Farage (left inset).

Getty Images (3), Adobe Stock

"identify" their way into the ladies' bathroom. Now he says he supports last year's Supreme Court ruling, which secured women's right to single-sex spaces.

Luckily for Burnham, he is sailing into the top job without any real scrutiny. His margin of victory in this Labour leadership election was almost North Korean. In the end, he stood unopposed — 349 out of the 403 Labour MPs backed him. The mainstream media are fawning over the new Dear Leader to a degree that would make Pravda blush. Burnham has also said he won't go for an early general election, meaning voters will have an unelected prime minister imposed on them and be denied the opportunity to render a verdict on him.

Had more questions been asked, Burnham's carefully sculpted image would have already crumbled. He takes credit for the supposed revival of Manchester, defined by a foreign-money-fueled construction boom and a shiny new bus network. But much of this was underway long before he showed up. Meanwhile, he has been slammed for costly, unpopular eco-projects and his perceived failure to tackle the scourge of grooming gangs preying on Manchester's girls.

Labour and its media henchmen hope Burnham is the man to stop Reform — Nigel Farage's insurgent populist party that continues to top the polls. On this score, he can hardly be any worse than the adenoidal Starmer — the most unpopular prime minister since records began. Burnham, by contrast, can speak human. He appears to have a pulse. He has cultivated an everyman, "one of the lads" persona, guzzling pints in his trademark T-shirt and jeans.

But a casual-Friday Keir is not going to cut it. The mood in the United Kingdom is restive. Ordinary people are smarting from a stagnant economy and paying the price for our broken borders, rising migrant crime, and fraying social fabric. Even if Burnham wanted to do something about this, his party would never let him. Labour is now the party of posh do-gooders with more moralism than sense. There is already talk of him taking an even softer stance on migration in order to endear him to his MPs, even if that means infuriating the rest of the country.

A lot of Americans have looked across the Atlantic in horror in recent years. The mother country appears to have become a laboratory for all the most demented and authoritarian ideas percolating on the liberal-left. It looks like a place where everything is going to pot and you can be locked up for your tweets. That is only set to continue following the King of the North's coronation. But just as Americans threw off the yoke of one irksome monarch 250 years ago, here's hoping it won't be long before we get a chance to do the same at the ballot box.

Tom Slater is the editor of the British online magazine spiked.

LETTERS

Dems need dads

Miranda Devine correctly points to a real problem for Democrats: To attract voters, they have selected and promoted male candidates who are fishermen, hunters, ex-military, ex-law enforcement or astronauts, all to no avail ("Oh, man! These Dems are dumb & dumber," July 16).

Perhaps it's because they've overlooked a group of manly men who voters would actually identify with: men who are dedicated fathers and husbands.

Anthony Daddiego, Flushing

JD puts us first

I applaud Vice President JD Vance for sharing his candid views on the Middle East on Joe Rogan's podcast ("Don: I'll obliterate 'em," July 16).

He is the only rational voice against an "indefinite war" within the Trump administration. I admire his boldness in confronting the war faction, while maintaining fierce loyalty to President Trump. His "America first" approach to governing would make him a great future president of the United States.

Nick Gatsoulis, Manhattan

No booze is safe

The "Cheers for Change" initiative seeks to reduce or eliminate current regulations regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages in New York state ("Spirited booze law campaign," July 13).

But according to the US Surgeon General's 2025 advisory, alcohol consumption is responsible for almost 100,000 cancer cases and 20,000 cancer deaths every year. There's also no safe level of alcohol consumption: 17% of alcohol-related cancer deaths involve people who don't exceed the recommended daily limits.

We need a different sort of initiative — a campaign to make people realize that drinking alcohol in any amount carries real risks to life and health.

Mark Hoglund, Brooklyn

Justice for E. Jean

After hearing that President Trump has finally paid E. Jean Carroll $5.6 million for sexual assault and defamation, there is only thing to say: Chickens are coming home to roost ("Trump payout in sex case," July 15).

I'm looking forward to her receiving the other $83 million in damages she's awarded in another lawsuit against him.

Paul Newman, Merion Station, Pennsylvania

Of clocks and kids

The semi-annual changing of the clock causes confusion and upset in some simply for a one-hour disruption ("Daylight saving all year," July 15).

However, most people never sleep a solid eight hours without thinking twice about it.

Under permanent Daylight Savings Time, a morning sun will rise after 8 a.m. in winter. Children may be walking to school or to their buses in total darkness, sometimes in dangerous areas.

For an emotional disruption that lasts a few days, politicians would expose the most vulnerable to months of real danger. While debating the legislation, were they asked about the risk it poses to children?

John Brindisi, Manhattan

Don't invite rats

Your article reveals that the East Village is "still littered with piles of black garbage bags tossed onto the street" ("Oh, cheese! Rats invade East Village," July 14).

Where are the sealed bins? Loose trash bags, rampant littering and uncleanliness cause rodents to stay and reproduce. While rodent management is a part of life, it's a shame that many human activities attract rodents and then we brutalize them with things like glue traps.

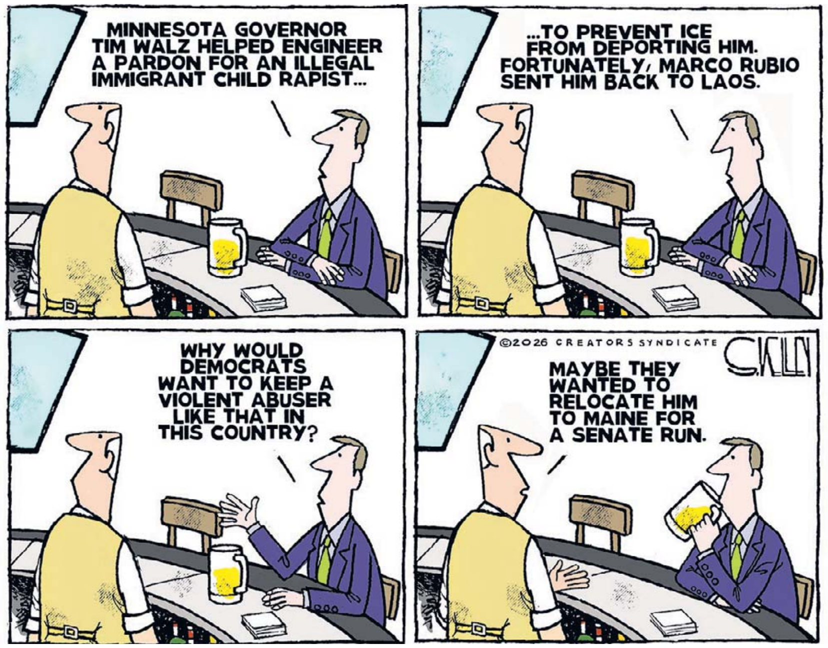
James Scotto, Yorktown Heights

Post your comments on stories at **www.nypost.com**

E-mail letters@nypost.com,

or write to:
The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, NY 10036.

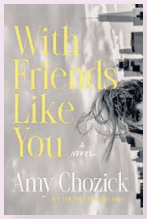
Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letter will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.



MINNESOTA GOVERNOR TIM WALZ HELPED ENGINEER A PARDON FOR AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CHILD RAPIST...
...TO PREVENT ICE FROM DEPORTING HIM. FORTUNATELY, MARCO RUBIO SENT HIM BACK TO LAOS.
WHY WOULD DEMOCRATS WANT TO KEEP A VIOLENT ABUSER LIKE THAT IN THIS COUNTRY?
©2026 CREATORS SYNDICATE
S.KELLEY
MAYBE THEY WANTED TO RELOCATE HIM TO MAINE FOR A SENATE RUN.

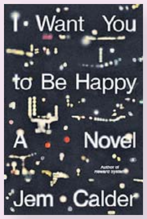
REQUIRED READING

By Hailey Eber

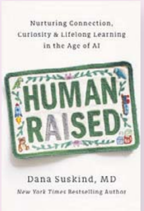


With Friends Like You
Amy Chozick (Dutton)
Exhausted new mom Emily becomes obsessed with finding her cool-girl college roommate, Daisy. When she suddenly reappears, the two embark on a wild adventure that gives Emily's life a jolt of adrenaline — but comes with dark-cloud questions.

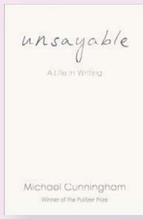
Cool Machine: A Novel
Colson Whitehead (Doubleday)
The third and final book in the Pulitzer Prize-winner's "Harlem Trilogy" brings us to New York City in the 1980s. Furniture store owner Ray Carney continues to try to make his way, by hook and by crook, as the city recovers from a recession and becomes consumed by towering excess and glittering ambition.



I Want You To Be Happy: A Novel
Jem Calder (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
This buzzy debut novel chronicles the relationship between an aspiring novelist-turned-ad agency copywriter in his mid-30s and a 20-something barista/wannabe poet as they navigate life in London, their past disappointments, alcohol dependency and their 12-year age gap.



Human Raised: Nurturing Connection, Curiosity & Lifelong Learning in the Age of AI
Dana Suskind (Dutton)
The noted pediatric otolaryngologist and author of "Thirty Million Words" offers advice on raising children as the age of AI dawns. She counsels parents on how to maintain human relationships and protect the innocence of childhood while also making use of new technology and preparing kids for the future.



Unsayable: A Life in Writing
Michael Cunningham (Random House)
The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Hours" and "A Home at the End of the World" has written a memoir about his love for language, literature and his craft.

The Parisian Heist: A Novel
Jo Piazza (Dutton)
This European jaunt takes place in two time periods. In the modern era, Emma, a poor American artist in Paris, cleans houses to pay her bills. She gets swept up by one of her clients, the widow of an art dealer who moves in dangerous, moneyed circles. Meanwhile, in the late 19th century, Vincent van Gogh's young sister-in-law inherits hundreds of his paintings when her husband dies.

DEVIL'S BARGAIN

A twisty new book exposes a career criminal who traded false confessions for freedom — and sent innocent men to death row

By ERIC SPITZNAGEL

PAUL Skalnik had a strange gift for being in jail when accused murderers suddenly felt the urge to spill their secrets.

Skalnik was a petty con artist with a grimly reliable routine, writes Pamela Colloff in her riveting new book, "Catch the Devil: A True Story of Murder, Deception, and Injustice on the Gulf Coast."

"Whenever his luck ran out and he ended up in jail," Colloff writes, "men confessed their crimes to him."

In the summer of 1981, Skalnik was sitting in the Pinellas County Jail on a grand-theft charge, staring down a possible five-year prison sentence, when he placed a collect call to the state attorney's office in Clearwater, Fla., and told them he had information on three different men awaiting trial for murder. All three, he said, had made full or partial confessions to him.

By 1984, he had already testified against or provided information on at least 27 defendants in the Pinellas County Jail, helping send four men to death row.

Prosecutors didn't seem troubled that a man with a long record of deception was extracting confessions at a rate that would've impressed the most seasoned homicide detective.

Skalnik was a small-time hustler with big-time stamina. He'd been married nine times, wrote bad checks, stole from women and widows, impersonated lawyers and reinvented himself in different cities whenever the previous version became inconvenient.

He claimed to be a Southwest Airlines executive, a Stetson law student, a Marine and a Boston attorney named Avery Harrison.

In jail, Skalnik found the role that paid best. He became a professional witness.

Pamela Colloff

His first major turn as an informant came in Houston in 1978, after he landed in the Harris County Jail on bad-check charges. He spotted Thomas Hirschi, one of three activists charged with inciting a riot at a Cinco de Mayo celebration in Moody Park, in Houston's Near Northside, and called an old friend in the district attorney's office.

"I've got something to tell you," Skalnik said. "Something that will interest you."

Soon he was out of jail for the day, sitting in the DA's office, reading from a small spiral notebook about conversations he claimed to have had with Hirschi.

By the early 1980s, he'd taken the act to Florida. In the Pinellas County Jail, he worked in the law library, where frightened defendants kept their legal paperwork and a confident man with jailhouse jargon could pass himself off as helpful.

He read the local papers, studied case details and then called prosecutors and reported that inmates had confessed. The reward was recorded in the state attorney's files with an exclamation point: "Probation was discussed!"

That was the basic bargain. Prosecutors got a witness who could turn messy cases into cleaner stories. Skalnik got leniency and repeated chances to resume his career as a criminal. Colloff calls him "the state's closer, the witness whose words moved jurors to choose death."

ON the stand, Skalnik played the penitent sinner with a badge-shaped heart.

"I still do have law enforcement inside of me," he told jurors. When asked whether he had received anything for testifying, he replied, "No, ma'am. I was probably treated worse than if I hadn't testified."

Behind the scenes, prosecutors and investigators lobbied for him, wrote letters for him and helped keep him in the county jail where he could remain close to defendants awaiting trial.

The case at the center of "Catch the Devil" is that of James Dailey, a Vietnam veteran from Kansas who served three tours and came home a man un-

PINELLAS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
125685 11 19 '82

Paul Skalnik was a con man who ratted out other inmates' alleged jailhouse confessions — and prosecutors were happy to believe him, even when his claims seemed far-fetched. One such tale landed James Dailey (right) on death row.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office; Zuma Press, Peter Yang

recognizable to his own family.

His mother would later tell Colloff that she'd sent away "two lovely young men to the Air Force and Marines," and "they came back, and they were different boys."

By 1985, alcoholism had cost Dailey his marriage, his children and any stable foothold in the world. He drifted to Pinellas County with Jack Pearcy, a violent drinking companion.

On May 5, 1985, a 14-year-old girl named Shelly Boggio crossed paths with Pearcy and Dailey at a house in Seminole. By morning, her body was under a drawbridge at Indian Rocks Beach, stabbed 31 times, her hands cut from trying to shield herself, water in her lungs.

DURING his polygraph session, Pearcy seemed to incriminate himself almost by accident. He grew so rattled that he said he might need to speak to a priest, then described a recurring nightmare in which the killer turned toward him and the face he saw was his own.

But when it came time to give investigators a usable story, Pearcy blamed Dailey.

Detective John Halliday went to the Pinellas County Jail and pulled men from Dailey's cellblock one by one. His notes recorded what each told him: "Nothing." "Knows nothing." "Wish I could have helped you but it's a little outa my league."

Then Skalnik got word to Halliday that Dailey had confessed to him.

Dailey told his lawyer, "This is a damn setup," and drew a diagram of the cellblock showing that any conversation between them would've required him to shout across the floor in full view of guards and other inmates. The jury never saw the diagram.

At trial, Skalnik testified that Dailey told him the girl "kept staring at him, screaming, and would not die." It was the kind of line a jury remembers.

The defense cross-examination, meanwhile, went nowhere. Colloff writes that it became so tangled and dull that it "left several jurors dozing in their seats."

The jury deliberated for less than two hours and returned a unanimous verdict of guilty. The penalty-phase recommendation was death, also unanimous. Five days after the verdict, Skalnik walked out of jail.

SKALNIK'S parole officer, reviewing his conduct after a subsequent release, was less impressed than the prosecutors had been.

"This man has been, is, and always will be a danger to society," she wrote in her official report, warning that he had "perfected the role of con man" and left behind victims who'd "never be able to recoup the financial loss or psychological well-being that they have suffered."

Skalnik kept reinventing himself until the routine finally wore thin. When Colloff first met him in a federal prison in Texas in 2018, he pulled out a soiled rag stained with dried blood and told her he was dying of cancer, then promised to reveal everything about his years as an informant. The promised confession never came.

"I refused to admit to myself, until it was much too late," Colloff writes, "that Skalnik had been stringing me along."

He died in a Texas nursing home on March 10, 2020, one day before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. His ashes went unclaimed.

Dailey remains on Florida's death row after nearly four decades. He turned 80 on June 11. He paints landscapes from his cell with commissary art supplies, small scenes of forests, streams and a cobalt-blue swimming hole from his Kansas childhood.

A prosecutor once defended the use of such witnesses as Skalnik with the old line: "You've got to make a deal with a sinner to catch the devil."

Colloff's book arrives at a harder conclusion.

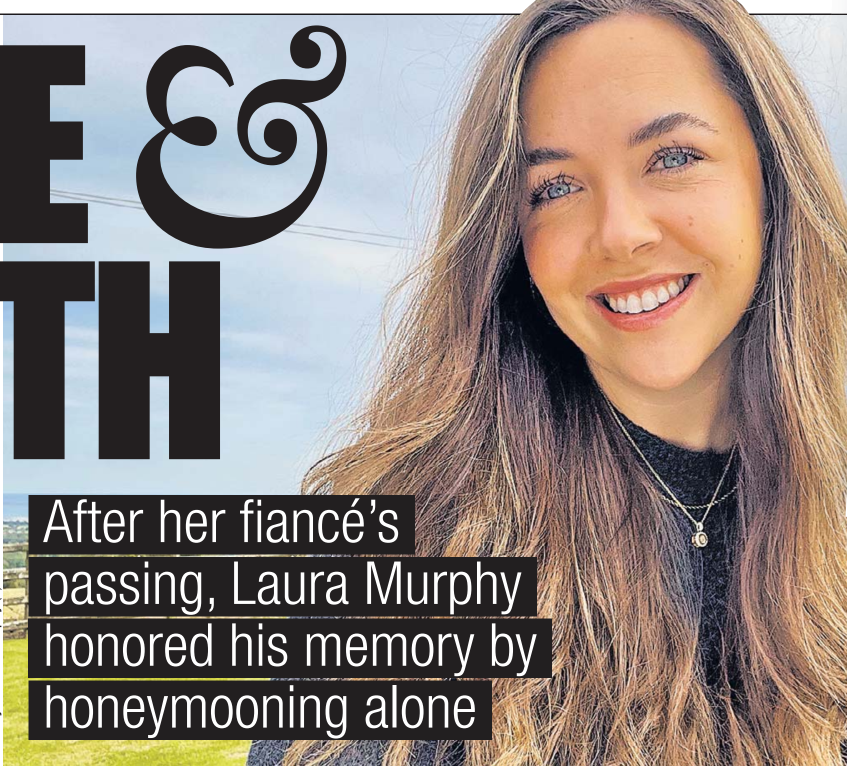
"What made him so dangerous," she writes, "was not his intelligence or cunning, but rather how readily the institutions that were supposed to uphold the law and protect the most vulnerable had amplified his lies."

In Pinellas County, prosecutors thought they'd found a sinner who could help them catch devils. What they really found was a con man who understood exactly what they wanted to hear.

LOVE & DEATH

By RAQUEL LANERI

After her fiancé's passing, Laura Murphy honored his memory by honeymooning alone



Laura Murphy never got to marry Devon O'Grady, who died unexpectedly before their wedding. Instead she went on a "solo honeymoon" (left) alongside O'Grady's loved ones and supporters on TikTok.

Courtesy of Laura Murphy (2)

'MY fiancé died a month before our wedding, and now I'm going on our honeymoon alone to see if life is worth living."

That's how Laura Murphy introduced herself in a TikTok post that went viral. The video — posted Aug. 25, 2024 — swiftly surpassed 1 million views and now boasts more than 4 million.

Millions followed the grieving 28-year-old lawyer from Newfoundland on her trip as she walked in the London rain, sunbathed on the French Riviera and attempted to drown her sorrows in Aperol spritzes in Florence.

Now, nearly two years later, she's written a book about the experience.

"The Solo Honeymoon: A Brief Beautiful True Love Story" (with Bret Witter, Dutton) chronicles the six weeks Murphy spent traveling through Europe alone. It also documents her three-year romance with Devon O'Grady, the fiancé whose sudden death at the age of 32 led to Murphy's solo trip.

"There were multiple times where I thought I couldn't do it," Murphy, now 30, told The Post. "I'm shocked that I actually did."

Their story starts with a "classic meet-cute straight out of Emily Henry or Jane Austen," Murphy writes.

It was 2021, a bleak COVID winter. Murphy was in law school and was interviewing for an internship at a law firm in St. John's, Newfoundland. When she arrived, the elevator was broken. "I was in a big winter jacket. I was sweating. I was late. I climbed up all [12 flights of] stairs," she recalled. "I definitely was in panic mode."

That's when O'Grady, then a law clerk, appeared. He wore a mask, but "his eyes were so nice," Murphy said. "He put me at ease."

She got the internship, and got to know O'Grady. For their first date, he took her hiking to see the sunrise.

"He could make anybody laugh and just become anybody's friend, like, instantly," she said. "He just had a way of bringing people in."

They got engaged in the spring of 2023 and planned to get married in Murphy's father's backyard in the summer of 2024.

She gave her best friend free rein to plan the wedding. "Devon and I were so sure of our love, so devoted to spending our lives together, that the ceremony didn't matter," she writes.

In May 2024, a month before their wedding date, O'Grady suddenly suffered a ruptured dissecting aortic aneurysm at work. He was healthy: an avid runner who did not smoke or drink and religiously got eight hours of sleep a night. Murphy thought her fiancé was having a panic attack when he stepped out of a client meeting and said he couldn't breathe. He died in her arms before the paramedics arrived.

"I saw his face go white," Murphy writes. "I will never forget it. I see it at night, in the morning, when I beg for him, when I beg for release."

She spent the next three months in bed, looking at pictures of O'Grady and writing messages to him on her phone's notes app. "That was just kind of how I was processing it," she said.

The couple had talked about going to London, France and Italy for their actual honeymoon, though they hadn't made definite plans, so Murphy planned an adventure around those places. On Aug. 23, she headed to London. She spent the first two days largely in her hotel bed, crying, sleeping and FaceTiming with her best friend. "I knew I needed to get out and experience the city, but I was struggling," she writes.

Eventually, she found the strength to go to a McDonald's and strike up a conversation with a group of American college girls studying abroad. She went vintage shopping with them the next day.

She also posted her first TikTok in London. It took her five hours to edit and she thought only her friends and family would see it. Instead, millions viewed it. People reached out with words of encouragement, or their own stories of losing a loved one.

"It felt surreal," she said. "It made me feel like I was not alone."

From London, she went to Nice, France, where her best friend was vacationing; Morocco; Ireland, where she stayed with O'Grady's mom and aunt; Bath, England; and Castellina, Italy, where O'Grady had vacationed with his family.

There, she stayed with his father and sister, Kathleen, visiting the very places she had seen in old photos or heard about from O'Grady so many times.

"That was very special," said Murphy, who has been planning to go back.

Other highlights included a backstage tour of the West End production of Les Mis (from one of the actresses and a wig designer); a dinner at Le Plongeoir, a restaurant high on a cliff overlooking the Mediterranean in Nice; and screaming on top of a mountain in the Irish countryside with O'Grady's mother.

After six weeks of travel, Murphy returned home. She's believes it's likely that she'll never quite move on from O'Grady's death, but the trip showed her that life is still worth living and that she's strong enough to carry on.

"I didn't think I would get through the summer after he passed, and I got through that. And I can look back and feel proud of myself," she said. "Devon would be proud of me, too."

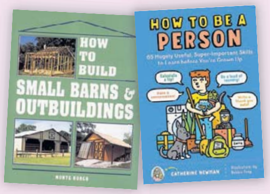
BUZZ: BookTok makes unexpected old titles hot

A 1992 guide to building sheds and barns has become an unlikely hit.

Thanks to BookTokers — influencers who review and recommend titles on the platform — Monte Burch's "How to Build Small Barns & Outbuildings" is having a moment.

Sales of the book, published by Hachette Book Group's Storey Publishing imprint, recently spiked after creators @onedopepawpaw, @toddcawood and @masked_gamer_ praised the title in viral videos.

A 36-second post from @onedopepawpaw alone garnered 1.3 million views, saying, "All you guys who want to look like a man to your wife, but you don't know how to builds--t, here's your step-by-step how-to guide."



Charlotte Bryla, Hachette Book Group's director of advertising and social commerce, who manages the publisher's TikTok Shop business, said their website sold out of its inventory within days of the video postings and had to restock. She declined to share specific sales figures.

"What has normally been a steady backlist seller for us saw an exciting spike in sales last year when it went viral on TikTok," she said. "Our buyers have been really responsive to affiliate content."

The barn building guide is just one example of how BookTokers are reviving surprising backlist titles. Bryla said Hachette has seen a similar TikTok-related jump in sales for "Sandwich" novelist Catherine Newman's children's books "What Can I Say?" and "How to Be a Person." Though the life-skills titles were published in 2022 and 2020, respectively, both found a place on the New York Times bestseller list for the first time this year.

"Books about crocheting, keeping livestock and other unexpected titles have become popular because of the BookTok community," Bryla said.

According to data from TikTok, the Big Five publishers — Penguin Random House, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Hachette and Simon & Schuster — collectively grew their platform sales by 1,300% year-over-year from the 2024 holiday season to the 2025 season.

Meanwhile, the number of books available on TikTok Shop in the United States swelled to 4.5 million products as of the first quarter of 2026. The hashtag #BookTok had generated 80 million posts globally as of June 1.

For some BookTokers, promoting overlooked and backlist titles brings almost as much satisfaction as the paychecks that come from their widely viewed videos. "I feel like doing something good for the greater book community," said Steph Pilavin, 29, a Jersey City resident who runs an online book club, Celestial, where she promotes backlist titles.

— Shivani Vora

Celebrity Pics of the Week / TV / Horoscope / Puzzles

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Sunday Break

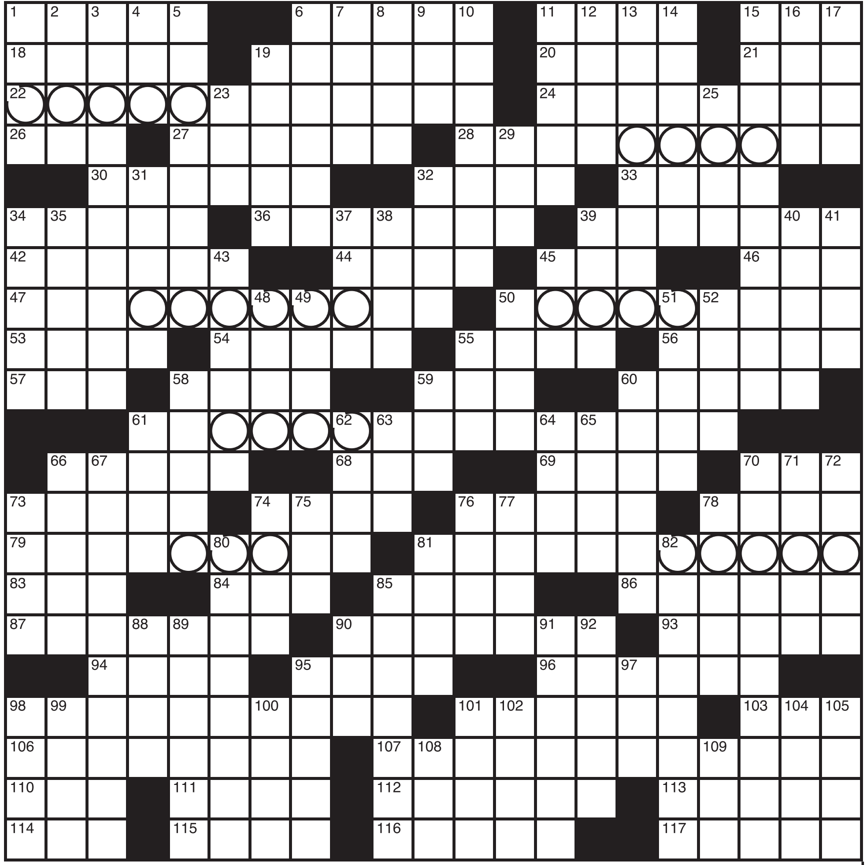
"WHIRLWIND TOUR" By Rebecca Goldstein

Across

1 Two-headed muscle, informally
6 Witchy words
11 Kinney who writes the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books
15 Singular pronoun
18 Earthy colour
19 Sugar substitute?
20 R&B's India.___
21 Dory mover
22 Sign on rural roads
24 University of Montana's home
26 Key hit in panic
27 Was more consuming?
28 Stays with a series of friends
30 Six-time NBA MVP Abdul-Jabbar
32 Juice option
33 College Park athlete, for short
34 Instruments in string quartets
36 Many a beach scavenger
39 In the left lane, say
42 Vegetables that may be chopped while wearing goggles
44 Actress Jessica
45 Curved line
46 Bronco or Mustang
47 "I've seen worse"
50 Savory potato patties in Indian cuisine
53 Lavish celebration
54 Flatbreads served with saag paneer
55 Spun records
56 Sat around
57 Almost-grads
58 Drive or park
59 Semana seventh
60 Race
61 Find common ground
66 Put pen to paper, say
68 Contains
69 Thread-bearing?
70 "Breaking Bad" org.
73 Living space?
74 Hilarious human
76 Crunchy salad bits
78 Shade source
79 "How rude!"
81 Project that kindergartners need to use their noodles for
83 Startled syllable
84 Kyoto currency
85 Dance that tells a story
86 Bean
87 Bursts of light
90 Sleepover duds
93 Site of a Herculean task
94 Digital extension?
95 Makes illegal
96 Mexican bucks
98 With 107-Across, reunite a musical group, or a hint to this puzzle's circled letters
101 "Foundation" trilogy novelist Isaac
103 LAX gatekeepers
106 Blissful
107 See 98-Across
110 Compete
111 Water-resistant wood
112 Rights activist Hernandez
113 Fun aunt's movie date, maybe
114 The Oilers, on sports crawls
115 Some 35mm cameras
116 Fastened, in a way
117 Small pastries

Down

1 Portend
2 Keeps cold
3 Task managers?
4 "I'd rather ___ on the side of caution"
5 Cheese with a Romano variety
6 Bagel variety
7 History
8 Canal in upstate New York
9 "Encanto" songwriter ___-Manuel Miranda
10 Hamstring exercise
11 Obstruct
12 Celebrity chef Adjepong
13 Tilapia-and-tortilla dish
14 Admits, with "up"
15 Deli spear
16 Soccer period
17 History chapters
19 Loves (on)
23 Regret
25 Plural pronoun
29 Not new
31 Peerless?
32 Splotchy
34 Bobs and weaves?
35 Head in
37 Jacobson of "Long Story Short"
38 Cut on the ___
39 Poke
40 Undressed
41 Crossword diagram
43 Drive way?
45 Pint glass serving
48 Linger in the tub
49 Other, in Spanish
50 Not entirely open
51 Not entirely sober
52 Nice concept?
55 Party bowlful
58 Chromosome units
59 Private convos
60 Nurses
61 Actor Liu
62 French cabbage
63 Cereal grain
64 Swimmer with a saddle patch
65 "Wuthering Heights" setting
66 Google phone
67 Product of Chicago?
70 Parental figure for a queen
71 Unsettling
72 Cigna competitor
73 Feud
74 Some seeded loaves



© 2024 Tribune Media Services

75 Particle in a stellar wind
76 Salve
77 Puree in a breakfast bowl
78 Striped big cat
80 Where one may set their sights
81 "___ the word!"
82 Insignificant occurrence
85 Fanny pack alternative
88 Fill up
89 Drummer's cymbals
90 Stan and ___ Berenstain of kid-lit
91 Provided clarity, in a way
92 Alvin and Theodore's brother
95 Safe spaces?
97 Eggy drink
98 Donate
99 Oklahoma city
100 Winter hibernator
101 Anti-censorship org.
102 ___-Ball: arcade game
104 Breakaway group
105 Trojan War god
108 Need a sick day, say
109 Argentine aunt

Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.
Super Su Doku, inside, multiplies the challenge — and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org. For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow's New York Post.

© Syndicated Puzzles Inc.

Very Easy #7,344

			7		5			
7		9		2		1		3
						9		8
	1		3	4			6	7
	4		1	7	8		3	
2	7			5	6		8	
1		6						
4		2		1		3		6
			4		9			

Difficult #7,134

8				6				9
					7		6	
4		1			8	7		
		7	6			4		
	9						5	
		5			4	3		
		3				6		1
	2		1					
7				3				2

Challenging #564

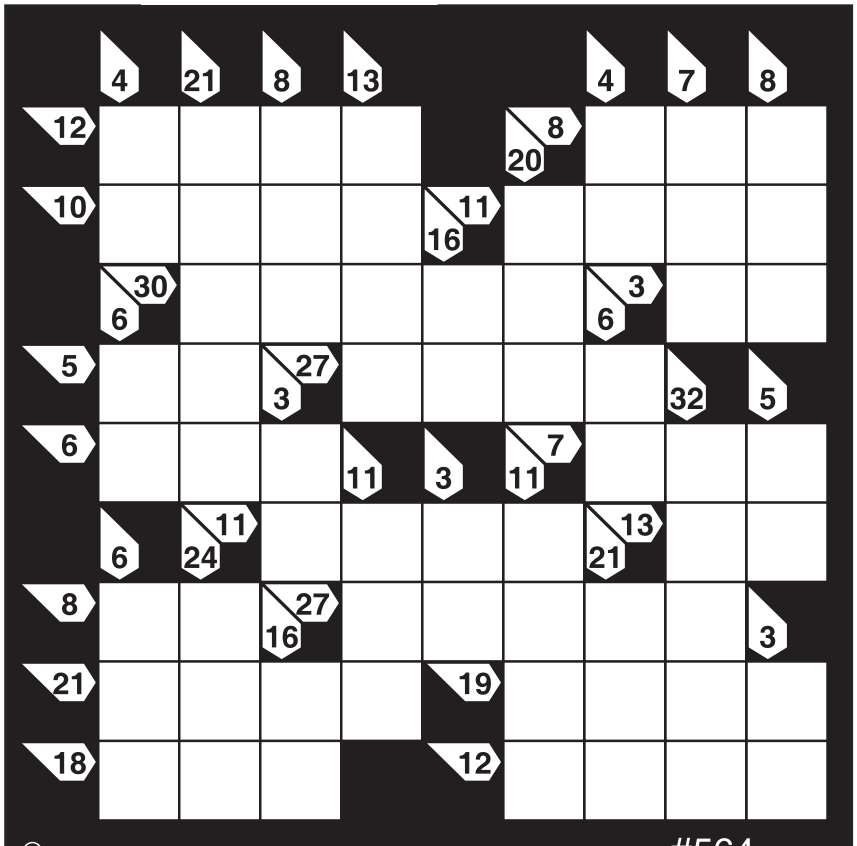
2	1	7				3		
				6				9
			7		3			5
	2			3				
9		6		4		5		1
				7			6	
4			1		6			
1				5				
		5				9	1	2

All Sunday puzzle answers on Page 54

All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 54

Kakuro

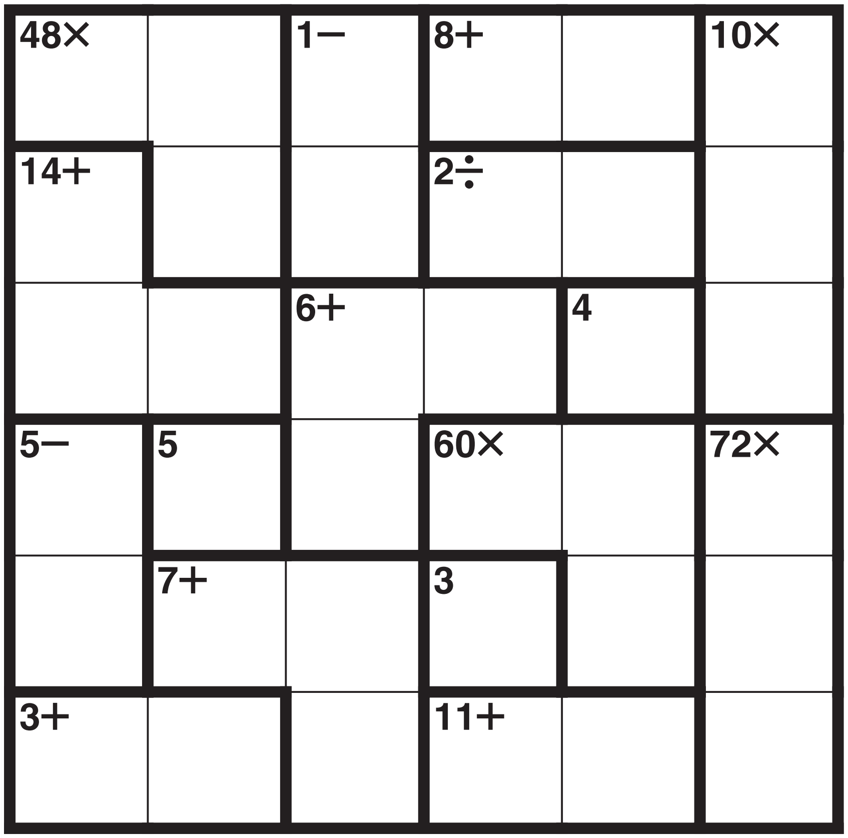
Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.



© Andrew Stuart, Syndicated Puzzles #564

KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



Trademark KenKen, LLC Distributed by Andrews McMeel

©2026 KenKen Puzzle, LLC www.kenken.com

Chess

The going rate

By Andy Soltis

While Netflix viewers watched a documentary about their bitter feud, Hans Niemann was narrowing the rating gap between him and Magnus Carlsen.

Niemann, 22, beat fellow American grandmaster Awonder Liang by 7½-4½ in a match in Paris.

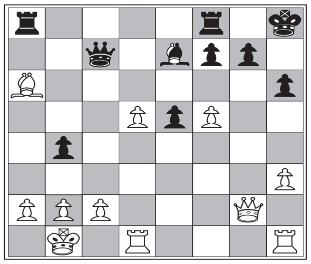
That gave Niemann his highest rating ever and moved him from 20th place to 12th place on the world chess federation list. Carlsen still holds the number one spot.

The Paris match was held while the Netflix documentary, “Untold: Chess Mates,” retold the angry dispute that began when Carlsen lost to Niemann and accused him of cheating.

Niemann’s rise in international ratings has largely erased suspicions about his play.

RUY LOPEZ
Paris 2026

Hans Niemann	Awonder Liang
1 e4........e5	15 Ba4!?........Nxa5
2 Nf3........Nc6	16 d4........Nb7?
3 Bb5........a6	17 dxe5........Nd7
4 Ba4........Nf6	18 Nd4!........Nxe5?
5 O-O........Be7	19 f4........Nd3
6 Re1........b5	20 Nc6........Re8
7 Bb3........O-O	21 Nxb8........Qxb8
8 a4........b4	22 Bxe8........Qxe8
9 a5........d6	23 Rf1........Qc6
10 d3........Rb8	24 Qa4........Qxc3
11 Nbd2........Be6	25 f5........Bc8
12 h3........h6	26 Nf3........Resigns
13 c3........bxc3	
14 bxc3........Qc8	



White to play and win.
D. Pino-L. Nowak
Katowice 2026

Last week: 1 d5! Bxb5 2 dxe6 Qc8 3 e7+! (2...Rxe7 3 Qh8 mate) or 3...Kxe7 4 Rhe1+.

Sunday Word Force

PAGEANTRY

From the word or phrase above, form at least 28 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

“A pessimist sees a tunnel. An optimist sees a light at the end of the tunnel. A realist sees the light -- and beyond it, the next tunnel.”

Today’s declarer needed to be an optimist and a realist. When East preempted with three clubs, South scraped up a three-heart overcall. North cue-bid four clubs, and though South signed off at game, North rather lustily bid six.

East had not doubled four clubs, so West led the queen of diamonds against the slam. South took dummy’s ace and cashed the A-K of trumps. When East not unexpectedly showed out, South had to get rid of his diamond losers before West could ruff and cash a diamond or two.

So South next took the A-K of spades. When East showed out again, the slam was unmakeable. South took the queen of spades, ruffed spade, ruffed a club in dummy and pitched a diamond on the good fifth spade, but West ruffed and cashed a diamond.

To succeed, South had to accept reality. A 3-2 spade break wouldn’t help since West could ruff the fourth spade and cash a diamond. South had to assume West had four spades. After taking the ace, South must lead a spade to dummy’s nine. Then he can take the K-Q and the fifth spade to pitch two diamonds.

If East wins the second spade, South will lose an extra 200 points, and it’s possible that if South played at six hearts 100 times, the winning play would lose points in the long run. But a gain/loss calculation isn’t the only factor. If South fails in a slam he could have made, the psychological blow he sustains may be significant.

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K Q 9 7 2
♡ J 7 6 3
◇ A 7 2
♣ Q

WEST
♠ J 10 8 5
♡ Q 10 2
◇ Q J 10
♣ J 9 4

EAST
♠ 3
♡ 5
◇ K 8 6 5
♣ K 10 8 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 6 4
♡ A K 9 8 4
◇ 9 4 3
♣ A 7

East	South	West	North
3♣	3♡	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

Opening lead – ◇ Q

©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 54

Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61 - 100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

F	C	I	N	G
O	X	U	A	D
W	E	P	Y	B
G	L	P	R	A
K	I	H	T	K

7-19-26

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

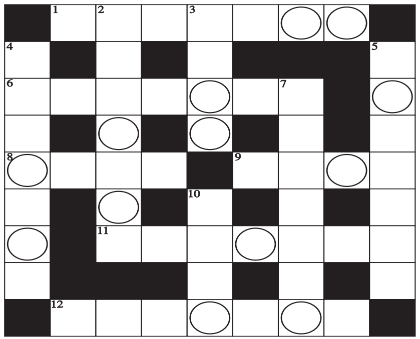
Find AT LEAST NINE THREE-LETTER MAMMALS in the grid of letters.

BOGGLE is a trademark of Hasbro, Inc. © 2026 Hasbro, Inc. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



7-19-26

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Puget Sound port	ETLESTA
6. Like the Pacific	LTRASEG
8. Require	DNEE
9. Page through	LFAE
11. Adolescent	EGNTEEA
12. Canal craft	DNOAGLO

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
2. Deeply committed	SERNAET
3. Not us	HETM
4. Fictional empire	NKNLIGO
5. Stumped	FBLAEFD
7. Pedicure target	EOINLTA
10. Combine	LEMD

How to play
Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

CLUE: This Nobel Prize winner said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○

© 2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. & Hoyt Designs. All Rights Reserved

SCRABBLE GRAMS

Hasbro and its logo, SCRABBLE®, associated logo, the design of the distinctive SCRABBLE brand game board, and the distinctive letter tile designs are trademarks of Hasbro in the United States and Canada. ©202 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

A1	A1	E1	O1	S1	N1	P3	1st Letter Triple	RACK 1
I1	O1	P3	N1	D2	R1	N1		RACK 2
A1	E1	O1	Y4	R1	N1	X8		RACK 3
A1	E1	L1	W4	F4	L1	D2		RACK 4
A1	U1	P3	K5	R1	C3	C3	Double Word Score	RACK 5

PAR SCORE 265-275
BEST SCORE 340

FIVE RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Super Su Doku

	1	12	7					11	6	5	
8		2		9	7				4		1
	3			12			5			10	
				1		9	12	10		4	
10				4	3	5					2
			4		6	10		1			
			11		9	2		12			
1					5	12	3				8
	12		6	11	8		1				
	9			5			4			6	
6		10					2		9		12
	8	5	2					4	7	11	

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Afternoon, Air Conditioner, Alert, Arid, Atmosphere, Bake, Blister, Boil, Breeze, Clouds, Conduction, Dark, Dome, Drought, Dry Spell, Earth, Energy, Europe, Evaporate, Extreme, Fahrenheit, Fan, Farm, Fever, Fiery, Fire, Foggy, Furnace, Gases, Global, Greenhouse, Haze, Humid, Inferno, Intensify, Island, Kelvin, Lava, Lemonade, Liquid, Melt, Metal, Mexico, Oasis, Outside, Oven, Pool, Radiant, Rain, Rapid, Rays, Records, Resort, Sahara, Sauna, Scorcher, Sky, Soared, Solar, Solid, Steam, Storms, Summer, Sunshine, Sweat, Swim, Thermometer, Thirst, Thunder, Trend, Umbrella, Urban, Vacation, Warmth, Warning, Wave, Weather, Wind

SOARING TEMPERATURES **SOLUTION: 10 LETTERS**

B	R	E	T	E	M	O	M	R	E	H	T	N	A	I	D	A	R	R	W
O	R	E	C	O	R	D	S	E	E	V	A	P	O	R	A	T	E	E	A
I	E	E	X	D	N	A	L	S	I	A	O	C	I	X	E	M	A	H	R
L	T	U	E	T	Y	G	G	O	F	C	G	T	L	E	M	T	Y	C	M
E	S	H	R	Z	R	F	A	R	M	A	D	A	S	U	H	I	F	R	T
M	I	D	I	O	E	E	I	T	M	T	A	M	S	E	O	E	I	O	H
O	L	S	N	R	P	V	M	R	A	I	R	R	R	E	A	H	S	C	H
N	B	W	S	E	S	E	A	E	E	O	K	E	A	L	S	N	N	S	T
A	S	O	L	A	R	T	V	W	T	N	N	R	E	Y	I	E	E	A	R
D	R	O	U	G	H	T	A	S	S	O	I	R	E	T	S	R	T	U	A
E	E	A	A	R	E	A	L	L	I	E	T	V	A	V	D	H	N	N	E
R	N	T	P	R	B	W	R	T	C	F	Z	E	L	I	E	A	I	A	S
E	E	H	O	I	E	A	I	A	A	L	W	A	L	E	N	F	N	U	U
H	R	U	O	T	D	D	N	N	R	S	O	O	H	E	K	E	F	M	O
P	G	N	L	O	N	R	M	R	D	I	S	U	V	L	I	K	E	B	H
S	Y	D	M	O	U	I	H	U	M	I	D	N	D	E	A	A	R	R	N
O	R	E	C	F	W	A	R	N	I	N	G	Y	K	S	N	B	N	E	E
M	E	R	G	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	D	I	S	T	U	O	L	E
T	I	M	E	T	A	L	L	E	P	S	Y	R	D	I	U	Q	I	L	R
A	F	T	E	R	N	O	O	N	O	I	T	C	U	D	N	O	C	A	G

www.wonderword.com

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication

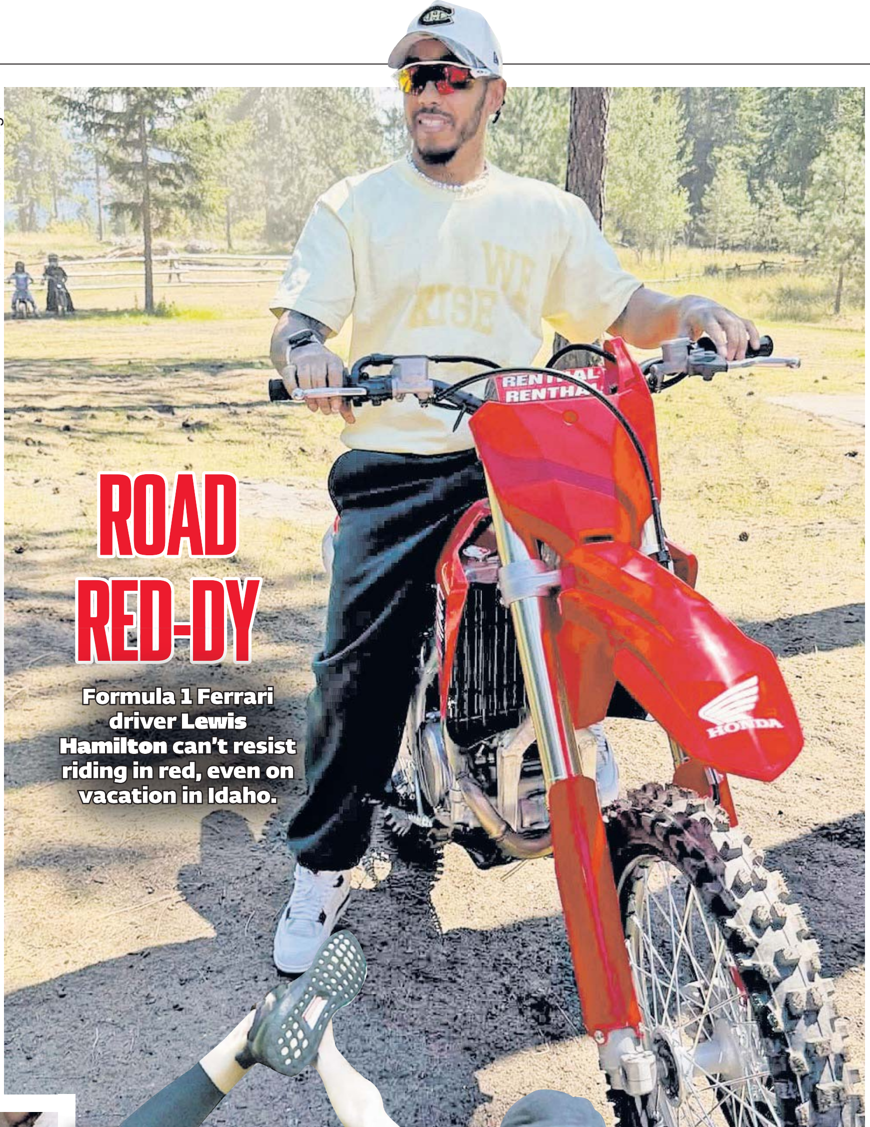
Snaps

By NY Post Staff

RUSHING BROOKS

Model **Brooks Nader** is a driving force while filming her family's reality show, "Love Thy Nader," in LA.

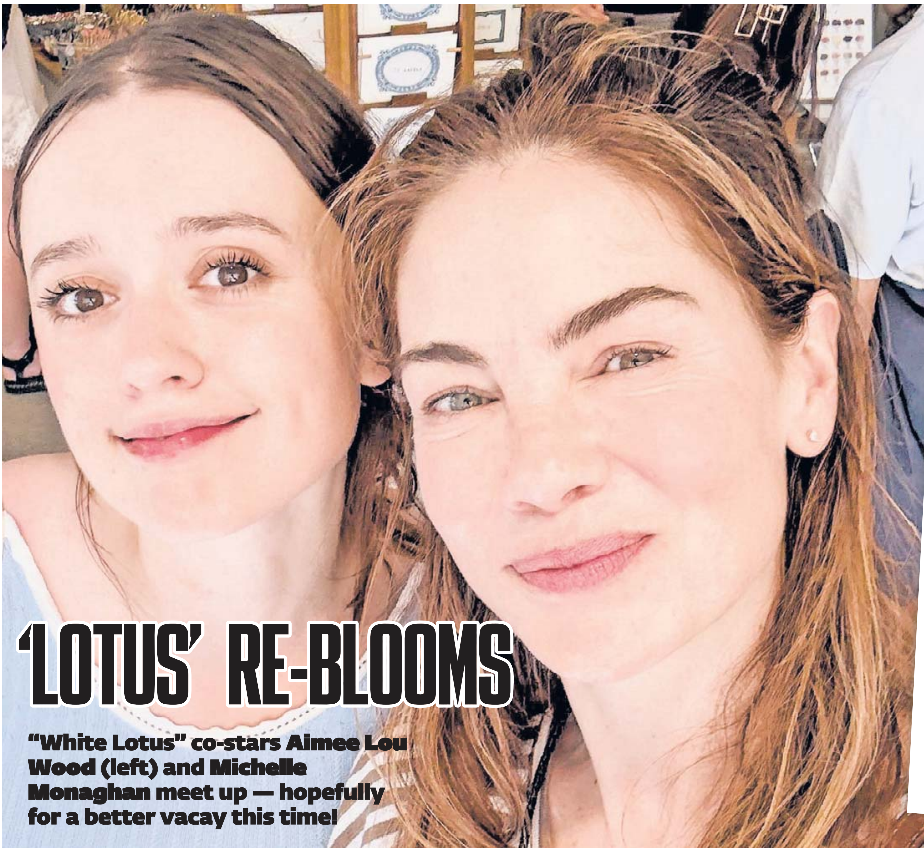
brooksnader/Instagram



lewishamilton/Instagram

ROAD RED-DY

Formula 1 Ferrari driver **Lewis Hamilton** can't resist riding in red, even on vacation in Idaho.



michellemonaghan/Instagram

'LOTUS' RE-BLOOMS

"White Lotus" co-stars **Aimee Lou Wood** (left) and **Michelle Monaghan** meet up — hopefully for a better vacay this time!

PERFECT EXECUTION

Krysten Ritter's killer character will have a leg up on her victims on the set of "Dexter: Resurrection" in Hudson River Park.

Jose Perez / BACKGRID

LATER, GLADIATOR

Zendaya is a glowing goddess as she autographs merch on her press tour for "The Odyssey" in Tribeca.

Elder Ordonez/INSTARimages

WIN BY A HAIR

Anna Wintour (from left), **Nicole Kidman** and **Sienna Miller** serve up blond styles during Wimbledon in London.

Victoria Jones/Shutterstock

JUST KITTEN AROUND

Cool cat **Bella Thorne** plays with one of her 19 felines, who looks a lot warmer!

bellathorne/Instagram

BLUE BELLES

Co-stars **Savannah Steyn** (left) and **Hannah Waddingham** are best buds at the premiere of Prime Video's "Ride or Die" at the New York Historical Society.

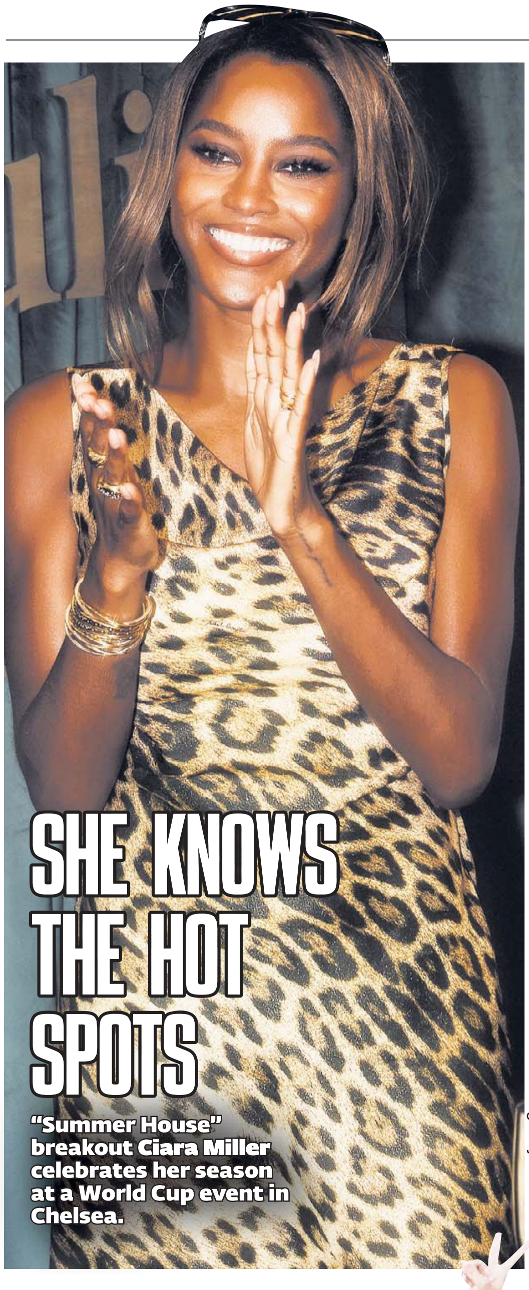
Getty Images

Snaps

SECRET ADMIRERS

Anya Taylor-Joy (left) and **Reese Witherspoon** share their secrets to maintaining flawless hair at the LA premiere of their new Apple TV show, "Lucky."

WireImage



SHE KNOWS THE HOT SPOTS

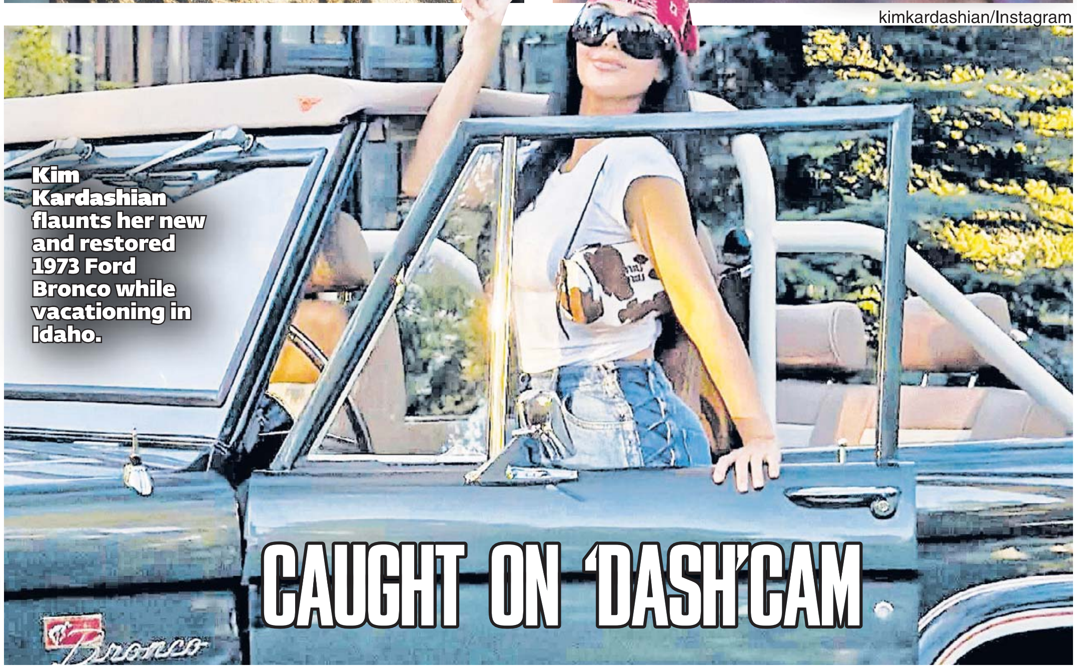
"Summer House" breakout **Ciara Miller** celebrates her season at a World Cup event in Chelsea.

UVT Agency

PARDON THEIR FRENCH

Timothée Chalamet (right) and his dad, **Marc**, shout as their team France loses to Spain in the World Cup semifinal in Dallas.

AbacaPress / SplashNews.com



CAUGHT ON 'DASH'CAM

Kim Kardashian flaunts her new and restored 1973 Ford Bronco while vacationing in Idaho.

kimkardashian/Instagram

SMOOTHIE KING.

SMOOTHIE OPERATOR

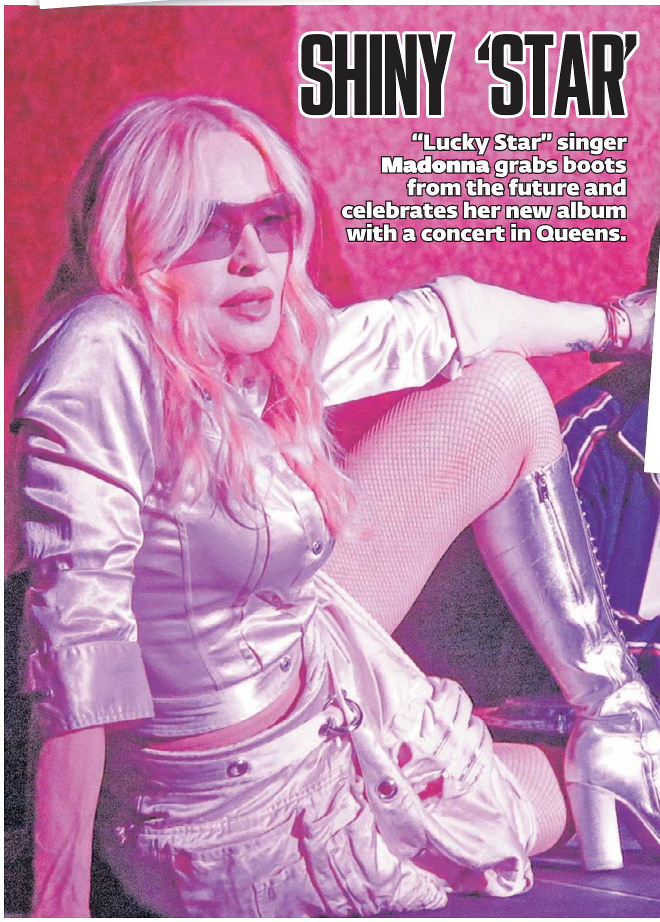
“Summer House” star **Lindsay Hubbard** makes a fruity blend of business and fun in her collab with Smoothie King in New Jersey.

Getty Images for Smoothie King

BREAKOUT ROLLS

Sebastian de Souza and **Elisabeth Moss** are caught red-handed filming new legal drama “Conviction” in the city.

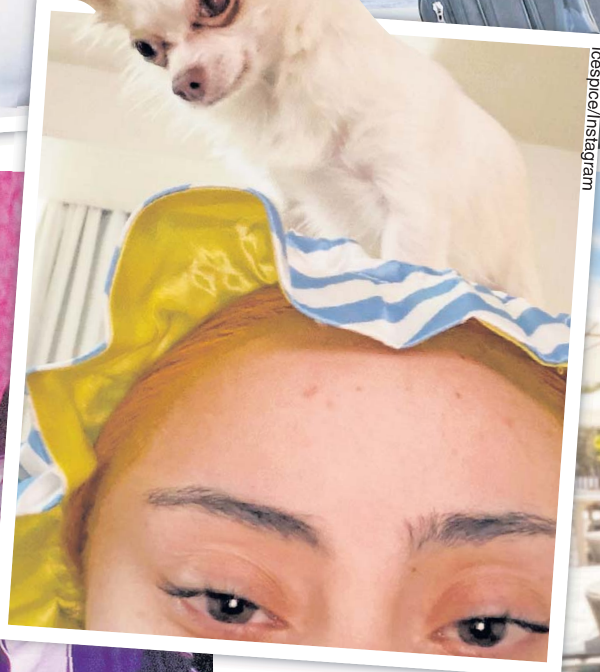
GC Images



SHINY ‘STAR’

“Lucky Star” singer **Madonna** grabs boots from the future and celebrates her new album with a concert in Queens.

Matthew Rettenmund / SplashNews.com



icespice/Instagram

HIGH-END WATCH DOG

Rapper **Ice Spice’s** *domes*ticated dog **Bambi** is head of all animals from his vantage point.

jennadewan/Instagram

SKINNY-SIPPING

Dancer **Jenna Dewan** twirls into vacation mode by the pool.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS

LIVE WITH KELLY AND MARK

9 a.m., ABC

Monday: Leslie Jones (above), Minka Kelly

Tuesday: Lauren Cohan, Wyclef Jean

Wednesday: Tom Holland, Pamela Adlon

TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m., NBC

Monday: Kevin Hart, **DJ Khaled** (above)

Tuesday: Travis Scott, Drew Brees

Wednesday: Shania Twain, John Leguizamo

WATCH WHAT HAPPENS LIVE

11 p.m., Bravo

Monday: Cooper Dawson, Steven McBee Jr.

Tuesday: "In the City" Reunion Part 1

Wednesday: Ariana Biermann, **Kristen Doute** (above)

Sunday July 19, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	News 6:30pm	60 Minutes		Big Brother		Tracker: Daughters (R)		Marshals: Blowback (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Crossroads of
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees from Yankee Stadium. Live.						Password: The Miz & Jimmy Fallon (R)		News 4 New York at 11	News
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(5:30) Indycar NICS Racing: Borchetta Bourbon Music City Grand Prix Live.			Nation's Dumbest: Back to School (R)		MasterChef: Bitter Sweet Mystery Box (R)		The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	FIFA World Cup on FOX	
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos: Senior-itis (R)		(8:02) Home Videos (R)	(8:33) Speed					Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Paid Program	Paid Program	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Suits: Faith		Suits: Blowback	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	Police 24/7: On	The Replacements (2000, Comedy): A strike forces a coach to recruit a team of second-string bench-warmers. Keanu Reeves. ★★★					PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		New York Nightcap	Yankees Nation
13 WNET	13	13	13	Treasures of New York	Anyone Can Sing		Patience: Paco's Revenge		Grantchester		Downton Abbey: Part Six: The Spanish flu strikes Downton. Mary, Sybil and Robert each confront			
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(5:30) Barry	60s and 70s Soul Celebration (My Music Presents)						Memory Makeover with Daniel Amen			
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Aktina TV	Buzz (2009)	Profiles	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Nightmare Theatre			
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Scope		NCIS: Reasonable		NCIS: Charade		NCIS: Return to Sender		NCIS: Homefront	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	La rosa de Guadalupe		Garra vs Veneno: Guerreros Mundiales				Complices		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	El Mundial	Operación Triunfo		(7:58) Operación Triunfo				Pica y se extiende		Noticiero	Noticias (R)
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Pocono	Inside	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning (R)			Paid	Judge Judy	Paid	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	UFC Rivals (R)		UFC Rivals (R)		(10:01) WWE LFG		WWE: Great	WWE: Great
AMC	54	43	231	(5:45) The Martian (2015, Science Fiction) Matt Damon. PG-13 ★★★½					The Vampire Lestat: The Failures				(11:04) Vampire Lestat	
BBCAM	71	101	189	Battle: LA	War of the Worlds (2005, Science Fiction) Tom Cruise. PG-13 ★★½					(9:45) Predator (1987, Science Fiction) Arnold Schwarzenegger. ★★★				
BET	37	54	270	Norbit ★½	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		(10:10) Family Feud		(11:20) Family Feud	
BRAVO	18	44	185	Girls Trip	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives Atlanta		Married at First Sight			Watch What	(11:01) Real Housewives	
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) CNN	CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		K-Everything: K-Pop		K-Everything: K-Film		K-Everything: K-Food	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	Naked &	Naked & Afraid: Global		Naked and Afraid: Global Showdown: Top of World				(10:01) Eye of Storm		(11:02) Eye of Storm (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Descendan.	Frozen (2013, Adventure) Kristen Bell.			Dragon	Dragon	Phineas	Vampirina	Wizards	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (2022)			The Super Mario Bros. Movie (2023) Chris Pratt. ★★★½				Elf (2003, Holiday) Will Ferrell. PG ★★★			
ESPN	28	36	70	Countdown	WNBA Basketball Live.				NBA Summer League: Championship Live.				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	NBA Summer League: Championship Live.				ESPN Doc.	ESPN FC		World Long Drive Tour			ESPYS (R)
FBN	43	106	117	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		Sunday Night		One Nation		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	100 Cooks: The Last 14		100 Cooks: 8 Cooks Down to 1			Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby
FREE	38	49	199	(6:10) National Treasure (2004, Adventure) Nicolas Cage. PG ★★★					(9:20) National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007, Adventure) Nicolas Cage. ★★★					
FS1	400	99	83	FIFA World Cup Replay.		2026 FIFA World Cup: Final: Spain at Argentina. Taped.					NHRA Drag Racing: 2026 Sonoma Nationals Taped.			
FX	10	40	53	(6:00) Avengers: Endgame (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans. PG-13 ★★★★							Jason Bourne (2016, Action) Matt Damon. PG-13 ★★½			
HALL		191	240	Snowbound for the Holidays (2026)			A Very Merry Mix Up (2013, Holiday) Alicia Witt. ★★½				Never Kiss a Man in a Christmas Sweater (2020)			
HGTV	64	98	165	Crashers	Crashers: Size Matters		Holmes on Homes		Maine Cabin Masters		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Hazardous	Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History		(10:03) Food Built		(11:05) Food Built (R)	
ID	23	171	123	Evil Lives	Evil Lives Here		People Magazine		People: The University of Cosmic Intelligence Cult				Case Paula Zahn	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) I Was Lorena Bobbitt (2020)			He'll Never Find Me (2026, Mystery)				(10:03) Crowning at the Prom (2026, Mystery)			
MeTV	33	33	3	Collectors	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Family	Family
MSG	27	87	78	(4:30) USL Soccer Replay.		Team Boxing League: LA Elite @ Phoenix Fury Replay.					Team Boxing: Boston Butchers at Dallas Enforcers			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(4:00) FanDuel Racing							PokerGo High Stakes		PokerGo High Stakes	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	Connect with Jacob		Crooked on MS NOW		The Briefing with Jen		Lawrence O'Donnell		The Best People Nicolle	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	We're the Millers (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. R ★★★					Joe Dirt (2001, Comedy) David Spade. PG-13 ★★½				Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121	Sharks (R)	Dangerous Shark (R)		Biggest Tiger Shark (R)		Big Hammerhead (R)		World's Biggest Great (R)		World's Biggest Mako (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	48 Hours:	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	
PARMT	36	56	54	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (2016, Adventure) Eddie Redmayne.						(9:35) Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (2018) ★★★				
SNY	26	60	77	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Cape Cod Baseball League: 2026 All-Star Game Taped.						Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:30) Willow (1988, Action) Val Kilmer, Billy Barty. ★★★				The Mask (1994, Comedy) Jim Carrey. PG-13 ★★★				Jumanji (1995) Robin Williams. PG ★★★		
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	The Office
TCM	82	41	230	(6:15) The Lady from Shanghai (1948)			Little Miss Marker (1980, Drama) Walter Matthau. ★★				Little Miss Marker (1980, Drama) Walter Matthau. ★★			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé: Meeting the Family				(10:03) 90 Day Diaries		(11:03) Jay & Pamela (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	NASCAR	NASCAR Cup Series: Window World 450 Live.						NASCAR Na.	Gran Turismo (2023) David Harbour. ★★½		
TVLAND	85	34	241	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU: Fault		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217	RV (2006, Adventure) Robin Williams.			Maid in Manhattan (2002, Romance) Jennifer Lopez. PG-13 ★★					Kicking and Screaming (1995) R ★★★		
WE	59	42	149	Minds	Criminal Minds: Route 66		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds	
YES	53	89	76	Homegrown	Brooklyn	Badalona to			Breaking	Breaking	Postgame	Behind NY	BKFC Rewind	
HBO	511	301	400	Dragon (R)	Dragon (R)	(7:50) House of the Dragon: Tumbleton			House of the Dragon		(10:07) Of the Dragon (R)		(11:14) Of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	Traitor ★★½	(7:18) Kingsman: The Golden Circle (2017, Action) Taron Egerton. R					(9:39) Red Sparrow (2018, Thriller) Jennifer Lawrence. R ★★★				
MGM Plus	595		395	(6:10) Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning (2025, Action)					The Westies		Westies	Skyfall (2012, Action) Daniel Craig. ★★★½		
PARSHO	551	321	365	The Perfect Gamble (2025)			The Chi: Cold Hearted		The Chi	(9:50) Django Unchained (2012, Western) Jamie Foxx. R ★★★★				

AMERICA IS 250: THE CELEBRATION SALE

NEW YORK POST

SUBSCRIBE NOW

A historic deal for a historic moment.

NYPost.com/JoinUs
or call 1-800-552-7678 code: JoinUs

Terms & conditions apply. Offer valid for new households that have not had New York Post home delivery in the past 60 days. After the introductory period, your subscription will automatically renew at the then prevailing rate until you cancel. Offer expires 7/31/2026.

50¢ A WEEK FOR 12 WEEKS

HOME DELIVERY

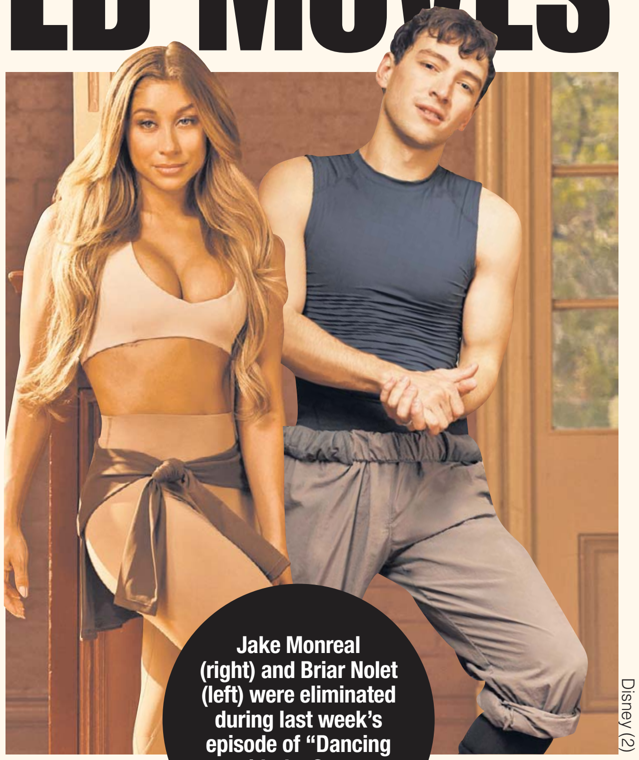
NEW SUBSCRIBER OFFER

DECIDER 8 THINGS TO WATCH WHEREVER YOU WATCH

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

BUSTED MOVES

‘DWTS: The Next Pro’ contestants Jake Monreal and Briar Nolet reflect on their elimination



Jake Monreal (right) and Briar Nolet (left) were eliminated during last week’s episode of “Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro.”

Disney (2)

1 DANCING WITH THE STARS: THE NEXT PRO

New episodes air Mondays at 8 p.m. on ABC, stream next day on Disney+ and Hulu

By KAREN KEMMERLE

“Dancing With The Stars: The Next Pro” features 12 of the best dancers from across the world vying for a spot in the ballroom on **“Dancing With The Stars”** Season 35. While each competitor is worthy in their own way of one day being in the ballroom, there can only be one winner. The competition kicked off with the shocking double elimination of contestants Jake Monreal and Briar Nolet. Known from his time on **“Dancing With The Stars: Junior”** and **“So You Think You Can Dance,”** Monreal was ousted from the competition due to lack of musicality during his jive performance, despite his incredible presence on the dance floor. Nolet, a commercial dancer who went on tour with Jennifer Lopez shortly after her stint on **“World of Dance,”** suffered an unfortunate slip during her samba. Despite her fall, judges Shirley Ballas, Mark Ballas, and special guest Derek Hough praised her tenacity while urging her to go home and work on her technique. Monreal knows that just being chosen to compete on “DWTS: The Next Pro” was a win in itself. Even though the judges had mixed feelings about both of their performances, Nolet pointed out that it was “a win to receive critiques.”

DECIDER: You both had the opportunity to be coached by Derek Hough. What makes him such a great mentor?

JAKE MONREAL: He has this energy about him whenever he walks into the room. It’s pretty incredible. He makes you want to dance. He makes you feel better about being there. He sets the tone and sets the standard, which is what all the best teachers I’ve worked with do.

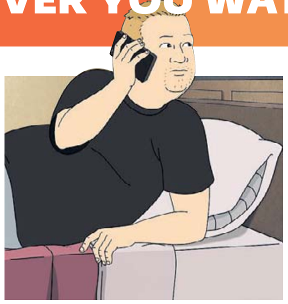
BRIAR NOLET: He genuinely wanted the best for each and every one of us, no matter if he already had personal relationships or not. He just wanted everyone to feel comfortable. Derek’s a bit of a goofball. He is the best of the best, but he is very humble and down to earth. He just wanted it to be a fair competition for everyone, which is all you can ask for in a mentor that’s working with every competitor.

Jake, you felt pretty good about your jive, but both Derek and Mark Ballas had notes about your energy and musicality. Did you think those were fair comments?

JM: I respect both of them so much as performers, choreographers, and teachers. I’m taking to heart any comments they give me. I’m using that critique to better myself. If people with that amount of expertise are telling you something, you should probably listen.

Briar, Shirley Ballas praised your presence, but both she and Derek urged you to work on your technique. How did you feel about feedback you’d receive?

BN: There’s no such thing as perfect. I can be proud of what I did, but also accept criticism with an open mind. There’s always room to improve. Especially being newer to ballroom, it was an honor to perform in front of those three judges and get notes from them. As soon as I got back home, I had a meeting with my coaches and figured out the best way to go forward if my goal is still to be a pro on “Dancing With The Stars.” I took the judges’ comments and applied them to my training.



2 KING OF THE HILL

Monday, Hulu

The Hill family returns in Season 15 of the animated sitcom, which marks the second season of its Hulu revival.

3 SOLO TRAVELING WITH TRACEE ELLIS ROSS

Monday, The Roku Channel

Tracee Ellis Ross (right) is taking on the globe in the sophomore season of her travel series, which features trips to Melbourne, Australia and Gstaad, Switzerland.

4 GONE

Thursday, BritBox

The new British thriller series centers around a school headmaster (Michael Polly) who becomes the prime suspect in his wife Sarah’s disappearance after she goes missing.

5 AVATAR AANG: THE LAST AIRBENDER

Saturday, Paramount+

The hit animated series has inspired a new animated movie, in which Eric Nam lends his voice to the titular airbender.

6 STUART FAILS TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE

Thursday, HBO Max

The **“Big Bang Theory”** spinoff sees **Kevin Sussman** (left) reprise his role as comic book store owner Stuart Bloom.

7 72 HOURS

Friday, Netflix

In this new comedy film, **Kevin Hart** (right) stars as a 40-year-old executive hoping to save his career by joining some twenty-somethings on a three-day bachelor party.

8 THE DINK

Friday, Apple TV

Stay out of the kitchen! **Jake Johnson** (left) headlines this pickleball comedy as former tennis prodigy Dusty Boyd.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♋ **CANCER**
(June 22-July 23)
It may seem as if some of your rivals are too strong or too skilled to take on one-to-one but you have an inner strength that makes you a difficult opponent to beat. If you stay the course over the coming week not many people will better you.

♌ **LEO**
(July 24-Aug. 23)
You may feel a bit drained by your recent exertions but this is not the time to think about taking a break. On the contrary, the planets indicate if you keep up the pace over the coming week you will soon find your second wind.

♍ **VIRGO**
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
While you may look confident on the outside there is something on the inside that keeps nagging at you and you must get to grips with it soon. How many times in the past did you fear something that never happened? Here you are again.

♎ **LIBRA**
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
As the most balanced sign of the zodiac you are quite tolerant of other viewpoints but if something offends your sense of fair play over the next few days you won't hesitate to make known your disapproval. That could be unpleasant for someone!

♏ **SCORPIO**
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
Friends and family members may say you are expecting too much of yourself but you have no intention of lowering your standards. If a task proves unexpectedly difficult this week you will double your efforts and push on until it is done.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS**
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
You can be impatient with people who find it hard to move as fast as you but if you pressure them to up their work rate this week their game could go completely to pieces. Try showing a bit of understanding- or at the very least pretend.

♑ **CAPRICORN**
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
You have been working like a robot of late and friends and loved ones have started to feel a bit neglected. Your schedule will ease over the next few days, making it easier for you to relax and act like a human again.

♒ **AQUARIUS**
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Let people who disagree with you have their say this week but don't be afraid to demolish their case if it is clearly built on sand. Not all opinions are equal and only those with a foundation in facts deserve to be taken seriously.

♓ **PISCES**
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)
If feelings are running high either at home or at work you must do what you can to calm things down and bring people together. Point out to colleagues and loved ones that bad blood is bad for business and they need to start getting along.

♈ **ARIES**
(March 21-April 20)
If you've had your fill of people who are forever telling you what you are doing wrong then leave them behind and go some place where they can't find you. Mars, your ruler, will make it easy for you to start a new life this week.

♉ **TAURUS**
(April 21-May 21)
Don't worry too much if something you had high hopes for falls flat over the next few days. If nothing else it was worth it as a learning experience and it won't be long before you get an opportunity to put those lessons to good use.

♊ **GEMINI**
(May 22-June 21)
Mars in your sign links with Saturn, planet of self-discipline, so even if you are the sort of Gemini who spreads your efforts all over the place there will be a method to your madness over the next few days. Keep your rivals guessing though.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Mars and Saturn make a positive link on your birthday, which means if you get serious about your career aims there is every chance you will make your name and maybe make a fortune too. It ultimately depends on how much you value success.

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword

B	I	C	E	P	■	■	S	P	E	L	L	■	J	E	F	F	■	S	H	E
O	C	H	R	E	■	D	E	A	R	I	E	■	A	R	I	E	■	O	A	R
D	E	E	R	C	R	O	S	S	I	N	G	■	M	I	S	S	O	U	L	A
E	S	C	■	O	U	T	A	T	E	■	C	O	U	C	H	S	U	R	F	S
■	■	K	A	R	E	E	M	■	■	P	U	L	P	■	T	E	R	P	■	■
C	E	L	L	I	■	S	E	A	B	I	R	D	■	P	A	S	S	I	N	G
O	N	I	O	N	S	■	■	B	I	E	L	■	A	R	C	■	■	C	A	R
I	T	S	N	O	T	S	O	B	A	D	■	A	L	O	O	T	I	K	K	I
F	E	T	E	■	R	O	T	I	S	■	D	J	E	D	■	I	D	L	E	D
S	R	S	■	G	E	A	R	■	■	D	I	A	■	■	S	P	E	E	D	■
■	■	■	S	E	E	K	A	C	O	M	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	■	■	■
■	P	R	I	N	T	■	■	H	A	S	■	■	R	O	P	Y	■	D	E	A
B	I	O	M	E	■	R	I	O	T	■	B	A	C	O	S	■	T	R	E	E
E	X	C	U	S	E	Y	O	U	■	M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I	A	R	T
E	E	K	■	■	Y	E	N	■	H	U	L	A	■	■	N	O	G	G	I	N
F	L	A	S	H	E	S	■	J	A	M	M	I	E	S	■	N	E	M	E	A
■	■	N	A	I	L	■	B	A	N	S	■	■	D	I	N	E	R	O	■	■
G	E	T	T	H	E	B	A	N	D	■	A	S	I	M	O	V	■	T	S	A
I	N	H	E	A	V	E	N	■	B	A	C	K	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R
V	I	E	■	T	E	A	K	■	A	I	L	E	E	N	■	N	I	E	C	E
E	D	M	■	S	L	R	S	■	G	L	U	E	D	■	■	T	A	R	T	S

Su Doku

8	3	1	7	9	5	6	2	4
7	6	9	8	2	4	1	5	3
5	2	4	6	3	1	9	7	8
9	1	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
6	4	5	1	7	8	2	3	9
2	7	3	9	5	6	4	8	1
1	9	6	2	8	3	7	4	5
4	8	2	5	1	7	3	9	6
3	5	7	4	6	9	8	1	2

Very Easy #7,344

8	7	2	4	6	5	1	3	9
3	5	9	2	1	7	8	6	4
4	6	1	3	9	8	7	2	5
2	3	7	6	5	1	4	9	8
1	9	4	7	8	3	2	5	6
6	8	5	9	2	4	3	1	7
9	4	3	5	7	2	6	8	1
5	2	8	1	4	6	9	7	3
7	1	6	8	3	9	5	4	2

Difficult #7,134

2	1	7	8	9	5	3	4	6
8	5	3	4	6	2	1	7	9
6	9	4	7	1	3	8	2	5
5	2	8	6	3	1	4	9	7
9	7	6	2	4	8	5	3	1
3	4	1	5	7	9	2	6	8
4	8	9	1	2	6	7	5	3
1	3	2	9	5	7	6	8	4
7	6	5	3	8	4	9	1	2

Challenging #564

Super Su Doku

4	1	12	7	2	10	3	8	11	6	5	9
8	10	2	5	9	7	11	6	3	4	12	1
11	3	6	9	12	4	1	5	8	2	10	7
3	11	7	8	1	2	9	12	10	5	4	6
10	6	1	12	4	3	5	11	9	8	7	2
2	5	9	4	8	6	10	7	1	12	3	11
5	7	8	11	6	9	2	10	12	3	1	4
1	2	4	10	7	5	12	3	6	11	9	8
9	12	3	6	11	8	4	1	7	10	2	5
7	9	11	3	5	12	8	4	2	1	6	10
6	4	10	1	3	11	7	2	5	9	8	12
12	8	5	2	10	1	6	9	4	7	11	3

Kakuro

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	1	5	2	4	■	■	3	4	1
■	3	4	1	2	■	3	1	2	5
■	■	8	5	1	7	9	■	1	2
■	4	1	■	6	9	8	4	■	■
■	2	3	1	■	■	■	2	4	1
■	■	■	2	3	1	5	■	9	4
■	1	7	■	7	2	1	9	8	■
■	3	8	9	1	■	3	8	6	2
■	2	9	7	■	■	2	4	5	1

Kakuro #564

KEN KEN

48× 4	3	1− 5	8+ 6	2	10× 1
14+ 3	4	6	2÷ 2	1	5
5	6	6+ 3	1	4 4	2
5− 1	5 5	2	60× 4	3	72× 6
6	7+ 2	1	3 3	5	4
3+ 2	1	4	11+ 5	6	3

Trademark KenKen, LLC Distributed by Andrews McMeel

©2026 KenKen Puzzle, LLC www.kenken.com

Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Seattle 6A-Largest 8A-Need 9A-Leaf 11A-Teenage 12A-Gondola 2D-Earnest 3D-Them 4D-Klingon 5D-Baffled 7D-Toenail 10D-Meld B-Nelson Mandela

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

APE, BAT, FOX, RAT, PIG, COW, YAK, ELK, GNU

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

P_3	A_1	E_1	S_1	A_1	N_1	O_1	RACK 1 =	65
N_1	O_1	N_1	D_2	R_1	I_1	P_3	RACK 2 =	60
A_1	N_1	O_1	R_1	E_1	X_8	Y_4	RACK 3 =	67
D_2	E_1	W_4	F_4	A_1	L_1	L_1	RACK 4 =	64
C_3	R_1	A_1	C_3	K_5	U_1	P_3	RACK 5 =	84

PAR SCORE 265-275

TOTAL 340

Sunday Word Force

agape
agate
agent
angry
apart
apnea
apter
arena
entry
gayer
grant
grape
grate
great
paean
pagan
pager
party
payer
peaty
prang
range
repay
tangy
taper
teary
yearn
yenta

Wonderword answer: SWELTERING

THE WEEK'S WINNERS

JAMIE DIMON
JPMorgan racks up record profit of $21 billion, biggest ever for a US bank, as dealmaking sizzles. CEO pledges to invest $24 million to rebuild nation's shipyards.

NEW YORK YANKEES
Most valuable MLB team is reportedly negotiating a $3 billion financing package with private-equity giant Apollo.

PAYPAL
Shares surge on reports Stripe and a private-equity group offered $53 billion for the payments company.

LOSERS

PATRICK SOON-SHIONG
LA Times' billionaire owner repeatedly fell behind on payments to correspondent Catherine Herridge and vendors, according to a report.

MARK ZUCKERBERG
Meta employees sue the Facebook parent alleging layoff decision-makers used AI to target workers with disabilities.

FIFA
Soccer's global governing body hit with lawsuit claiming World Cup premium tickets were hoarded by corporate bigwigs and VIPs.

THE 'FLIX IS IN?

Streamer hovers over AGs' war to nix PSKY-WBD

CHARLES GASPARINO

PARAMOUNT Skydance may have won the battle to buy Warner Bros. Discovery — but its war against rival Netflix is still raging.

That, at least, is what some executives inside the media giant known as PSKY are privately saying about the plight of their $80 billion deal to buy WBD, which in February edged out an offer from Netflix. Specifically, they believe a bombshell lawsuit from 12 state attorneys general filed last week to block the mega-merger has Netflix's fingerprints all over it.

I must admit that this assessment, described to me by multiple people inside PSKY, has a ring of paranoia to it. The evidence, such as it is, is more surmise than tangible. The gist is that the leaders of the suit, California Attorney General Rob Bonta and New York AG Tish James, are both fellow travelers in the progressive ecosystem — just like Netflix — and that they are being coaxed by Netflix to bring a case that could disarm a right-of-center competitor.

True, Bonta may share some of the same politics as people at Netflix, but he doesn't need CEO Ted Sarandos to tell him how this case is a gold mine for him. For a California politician who aspires to be governor someday, it's a no-brainer to make hay out of the fact that Larry Ellison, the mega-billionaire behind his son's deal, is a close ally of Donald Trump. DOJ Antitrust greenlighted the deal in record time in the hopes of MAGA ownership over the likes of CNN, CBS and lots of cable channels and studios.

And yet Paramount Skydance appears to think some studio executives are pulling those strings. It seems that every press release in response to Bonta's lawsuit has a Netflix reference, highlighting how the deal will create a viable competitor that can prevent Netflix from overpricing the most popular way entertainment and news is now consumed.

Paramount
NETFLIX

Getty Images

Amid California AG Rob Bonta (top) leading 12 states' push against the PSKY-WBD hookup, observers say Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos would be happy to see the David Ellison-led Paramount Skydance weakened even if the deal closes.

"I will say it is odd that Paramount seems weirdly obsessed with Netflix," Rich Greenfield recently told me and my partner Bob Sloan on our "Risk and Return" podcast. "Everything they put out has 'Netflix' multiple times."

Leave La La land?

This "obsession" might explain why the company on the eve of the lawsuit leaked an odd bit of news: That David Ellison is being advised simply to move his headquarters out of Los Angeles, rather than deal with people like Bonta.

Left out of the overheated coverage of this "move" has been a simple reality check: It's one thing to, say, take Tesla's Gigafactory out of Cali for the friendlier confines of Texas, as Elon Musk did. But try doing that with a media company that will own a pair of iconic, century-old studio lots if the deal is consummated.

"It is sort of funny when you have all of your talent basically in New York and LA, you're going to have all of your senior management team flying around the country to do meetings with talent?" Greenfield added. "Give me a break."

That said, everyone in the media knows Netflix is loving the drama. The suit could weaken a competitor even if the deal closes. A ticking fee of $650 million every quarter if it doesn't close by September is just one problem. Another is that integration is time-consuming and could be delayed until 2027 if a Biden-appointed federal judge grants a preliminary injunction against the deal, setting the stage for a lengthy court battle.

The Ellisons understand not only this, but also the fact that their strong legal hand doesn't really matter here. Just read the complaint and you get the feeling Bonta is living in the 1990s — ignorant of YouTube, streaming, the rise of Amazon, Apple and social media, everything that has upended legacy media. With cord cutting rampant in the streaming era, where's the monopoly pricing power in controlling more than 50 cable channels or maintaining two studios?

The 'Trump' link

It's all beside the point, of course. Bonta wants a political spectacle. He has all but admitted it. Just as Paramount doesn't miss a chance to mention Netflix in its defense, Bonta doesn't miss a chance to mention Trump in his rationale for bringing the case, that the president relishes one of his best buds in charge of a vast news and entertainment empire. It's as if in suing the Ellisons he's suing The Donald.

So despite his tough legal hand, Bonta will milk this for all it's worth. The Ellisons' inability to integrate CBS, CNN, studios and streaming services would certainly make Sarandos's year after his humiliating defeat in the months-long WBD bidding war.

And who knows what the future has in store if this deal fails? Maybe Netflix will be back.

"I say there's a 20-to-1 chance," one person inside the deal told me. "But all that it takes is one crazy, left-wing judge."

Reps for PSKY and Netflix didn't comment.

EMPLOYMENT

FINANCIAL

Malkin Holdings LLC seeks Investment Associate (New York, NY) (Hybrid): Spprt our priv invstmt dlgnce proc by assessng cos as invstmts for clients. Work drctly w/ the princ to hlp prep memos regrdng co-invstmts, fllw-on invstmts, & new opprtnstc invstmts for the Invstmt Comm (IC). Min. reqs.: Mast's in accntng, finnce, busnss adminstrtn, econmcs, or a rel fld (frgn equvlnt degr accptble) + 3 yrs of exp as an analyst in invstmnt mngmnt orgnztns. Rmte wrk prmttd 2 dys/wk wthn NY. Salary: $150,000-$175,000/yr, M-F, 40 hrs/wk. Send resume to hr@malkinholdings.com.

EDUCATION

Spanish Language Teacher & Chair of the Romance Languages Dept. Brooklyn, NY. Saint Ann's School, an independent, non-sectarian day school, seeks candidates for a Spanish Language Teacher & Chair of the Romance Languages Department position to plan & teach Spanish lang lessons to various groups & lang levels from Grades 7th to 12th; dvlp class materials; introduce & practice vocabulary & colloquial expressions w/ students; assign homework; supv & mentor new teachers; draft & proofread anecdotal new teachers' reports & checklists; draft periodic evaluations of dept members; engage in curriculum dsgn; determine the scope & sequence of the curriculum; hold wkly dept meetings; research new pedagogical materials for classroom instruction; manage daily oper'ns & logistics using Google Suite & Veracross s/ware. Must have Bachelor's deg in Latin-American, Iberian & Latino Cultures, or Spanish Lang; 1 yr of exp. as a Spanish Teacher, Adjunct Professor in Spanish, Teaching Adjunct or Graduate Teaching Fellow or Asst; 6 mths of exp. dvlpg course syllabus or curriculum & instructional or class materials, assessing students' performance through quizzes & drafting periodic evaluations; 6 mths of exp working w/ students of different ages, levels of proficiency, & learning styles; 3 credits of college coursework in Critical Pedagogy & Lang Learning; 3 credits of college coursework in Sociolinguistics Perspectives of Lang Bilingualism. Salary: $106,860 - $106,860/yr. Submit resume & cover letter via our secure application form at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14s6vFs8LbO4zT2Km2dmJEWMitfKd9x3iotrSHB_dIcQ/viewform. Pls ref: SLT-1

FINANCIAL

Senior Accountant in NY, NY to mintain B/S & P&L accts; Suport tax & regu filings; Monitor intrnl contrls; Recncilations; Streamline systms & proceses; Anual audits & prep FS in acc w/ GAAP; Liaise w/ ntrnal/xtrnl auditrs, tax acountnts & reg teams; Mnge bnking setlemnts; Comp reg reqts for 15c3-3 Reserv Calc; Comp & monitor RAC levels for Canadian broker dealer; Mth-end closing process, recon accts, book closing entris, analyz fluctuations; Prep resrv calcs for futures & brokerage customers. Reqd: MS in Acctg or Finance; 6mths exp as Accountant or Acctg Associate, in acctg analysis, fin'l reporting in acc w/ GAAP, prep budgets, mth-end reprtng. $97,406/yearly. Send CVs to Bianca Leavitt, Sr Associate, Recruiting, Webull Management, 200 Carillon Pkwy, St Petersburg, FL 33716.

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Mondrian Collection LLC in New York, NY seeks 1 Marketing Consultant To conduct market research, analyze, report, forecast marketing trend in jewelry industry. Coordinate marketing campaigns, initiate strategist marketing and product development. MS in Bus Admin/rltd major req: F/T, M-F, 9am-5pm, 83k/yr, Send CV to: aashin@mondriancollection.com. Ref #MC26MC

Head Taekwondo Instructor, Min: Assoc's Deg in Physical Education. Salary: $55,203.00/Yr. Send resume to Newtopia Enterprise Inc. (D/B/A Korea Taekwondo) @ 130-30 31st Ave, Flushing, NY 11354

★
★

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Home Health Aide - 1 avlble position (Southampton, NY) Instruct & assist person(s) in household w/ activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, grooming, toileting & ambulation habits, such as eating, resting & toilet behavior. Also, perform other duties. 24 mos exp reqd. Salary $41,018.00. Send via mail cover letter, resume & list of ref to Employer Robert Zachary Epley, 74 South Main St, Southampton, NY 11968. Write HHA-001 on all docs.

Nanny – Rye Brook NY- F/T 3 mos exp to prvd chldcare in a prvt hshold. $36,000/YR. Resume to 6 Edgewood Dr, Rye Brook, NY 10573 Attn: Mrs. Shalem.

PROFESSIONAL

Market Research Analyst for Lixi Hospitality Tarrytown LLC, F/T in Tarrytown, NY. Anlyz consumer behavior, competitor activities, & digital mkt trends using statistical anlys & machine learning to support data-driven mktg decisions. Eval advtg performance & campaign metrics thru A/B testing & regression anlys to optimize ROI. Interpret complex data using predictive modeling & segmentation techniques to refine pricing, targeting, & advtg strats. Assess mktg effectiveness by dvlpg KPI dashboards & applying attribution anlys to improve visibility, engagement, & sales outcomes. Must have a Bachelor's Deg in Data Sci & 12-mos working exp rltd to data analytics. Email resumes to linglixigroup@gmail.com.

Pharmacy Operations Manager Oversee daily pharmacy operations, staff supervision, workflow, and scheduling. Oversee purchasing and inventory of medicine and supplies. Manage vendor relationships, monitor supply chain efficiency, and coordinate insurance and billing procedures. Ensure compliance with regulatory standards and accreditation requirements. Maintain accurate records and operational reports. Pharmacist license not required. Bachelor's in Business Administration or Pharmacy required. Offered salary: $81,411.00/yr. Mail resume: 50 Oceana Pharmacy Corp; Attn: R. Ashraf, 3211 Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11235.

Plant Scientist. Shirley, NY. Manage farms, experimental fields, & greenhouses of agricultural research & breeding organization; soil testing, fertilizer planning, & implementation of sustainable practices; research & cultivation of specialty crops; monitor plant health & collect production data. Req'd: BS Agricultural Chemistry or related; knowledge of plant biochemistry, crop cultivation, plant pathology, mechanics of plant protection. M-F, 9-5. Salary: $57,470/yr. Send resume to Job #2, Lifeasible, 17 Ramsey Rd., Ste. 209, Shirley, NY 11967

Project Management Specialist for Children's Chinese Book Garden, LLC, F/T in New York, NY. Coord & implmnt proj plans for school initiatives by gathering cross-dept needs, aligning priorities, & supporting collabn among academic, admin, & external partners; define operational & syst reqmts, incl student enrollment, CRM, schedg, & learning-support tools, to improve workflow integration & srvc delivery; & mng proj execution thru timeline tracking, docn, status reporting, risk control, budget monitoring, vendor coordn, & process improvement. Must have a Master's Degree in Proj Mgmt. Email resumes giselajia@gmail.com.

PROFESSIONAL

DIRECTOR, Project Management – Next League LLC, New York, NY. Direct, lead, & oversee proj mgmt of portfolio w/in assigned Biz Unit. Provide recomm'ns to assigned projs. Monitor prog of portfolio. Create weekly proj status for complex budgets. Address prgm obstacles. Establish relationships w/ client team members. Create best practices for process & procedures to measure project health. Provide & implmnt recomm'ns to improve Proj Mgmt processes & templates. Comm w/ all levels of org on all matters rltd to projs. Rsrch solutions to ensure sufficient resource availability; provide reliable estimates of resource alloc'ns req'd for proj success. Hire, train, mentor, & mng a team of Proj Mngrs. Foster collaborative & productive wrk environ. Set clear expectations, goals, & performance metrics for Proj Mgmt Team. Provide regular feedback, conduct performance eval'n, & idntfy opps for skill dvlpmnt for direct reports. Reqmts: Master's degree – Telecommunications [Engg] or rltd field. Min 24 mos in sponsored position [Director of Proj Mgmt] or in a Proj Mgmt position or rltd field. Proven exp leading proj mgmt teams for software dvlpmnt prods w/in a client-facing consulting or prof'l srvcs environ. Demonstrated ability & exp w/ prod mngrs, engg teams & key stakeholders from different biz functions. Strong customer focus preferable for deliverables targeting 3rd-party software. Position is 100% remote. 9AM-6PM. Submit resume w/ salary reqmts via email to Recruiting@nextleague.com

AARCO Contracting LLC
Project Management Specialist (Great Neck, NY) Plan project activities & resource needs based on site evaluations & client objectives. Conduct on-site assessments to document existing conditions, confirm measurements & identify techn'l constraints affecting project execution. Review architectural & structural drawings & project specs. Coord vendors by sourcing materials, tracking delivery scheds & ensuring resources align w/ project milestones & qlty stds. Rate of Pay: $81,500/yr. Approx 15% of work time travel to NY State worksites for on-site assessments & monitoring site progress. Bachelor's deg in Engg Mgmt or Industrial Engg reqd; may telecommute from anywhere in the US; travel to various sites throughout NY State reqd; M-F, 40 hrs./wk; send resume to Ali Anwar, Principal, AARCO Contracting LLC, 44 Old Field LN, Great Neck, NY 11020.

TECH CAREERS

Technology Design Engineer (NY, NY) – Devlp engg tech planning projcts in electrcl & electronc systm netwrk routing infrastrctr for commercial & public building. Req MS in Power & Energy Systms, or EE +2 yrs exp in ICT systms w/ audio-visual AV solutns. Req skills & knowldg in AutoCAD, Revit, Ekahau Pro, ICT/AV System Desn, Natl Electrical Code, AV Schematic/Wiring Diagram Devlpmt. $135.2k~$140k/yr. Send rés w/code SOP002 to HR, Loring Consulting, 360 W31st St, Fl 14, NY, NY 10001

Computer Systems Analyst to analyze various system administration and network problems and implement solutions. Bachelor's in Information Technology and Management req. $80,600/yr. Chestnut Ridge, NY. Fax resume to Big Tows Inc at (845) 352-1446

MERCHANDISE

COLLECTIBLES

BUYING BASEBALL CARDS
And All Other Sports Cards,
Cert. Memorabilia & Graded
Vintage Cards. Prefer Pre-1980
Paying Top Dollar $$$
small or large collections
Call Henry 917-273-2353

NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life; blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at s imoner451@outlook .com. God bless you.

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Jadestone Fortune LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Feona Yeung: 118 Secatogue Ave, Farmingdale NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of LexLoo, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brandon Goldberg: 739 Wildwood Road West Hempstead, NY, 11552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of PRESHABBOS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brandon Goldberg: 739 Wildwood Road West Hempstead, NY, 11552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

PLACE AN AD

Email:
clloyd@nypost.com

DEADLINES

Monday: Friday 2:30PM
Mon @Work: Friday 2:30PM
Tuesday: Monday 2:30PM
Wednesday: Tuesday 2:30PM
Thursday: Wednesday 2:30PM
Friday: Thursday 2:30PM
Saturday: Friday 2:30PM
Sunday: Friday 2:30PM

We Accept
Visa, Mastercard,
American Express,
checks and money orders

The New York Post reserves the right to edit, reclassify, reject or cancel an ad at any time. We can only give appropriate credit, not to exceed the cost of the ad, for one insertion. We are not liable for complete omissions. Any discrepancies must be brought to our attention within 30 days of the first day the ad runs, in order to receive consideration for credit.

Golf

PGA/DP Tour - The Open Championship
At Royal Birkdale; Southport, United Kingdom; Purse: $17.8 million; Yardage: 7,223; Par: 70
Third Round

Sam Burns, United States	73-62-65	200	-10
Ryan Fox, New Zealand	72-68-62	202	-8
Si Woo Kim, South Korea	68-67-67	202	-8
Ryan Gerard, United States	67-67-69	203	-7
Lucas Herbert, Australia	70-62-71	203	-7
Ludvig Aberg, Sweden	71-66-67	204	-6
Bryson DeChambeau, United States	67-68-69	204	-6
Jackson Suber, United States	65-69-70	204	-6
Tommy Fleetwood, England	69-67-69	205	-5
Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen, Denmark	72-66-67	205	-5
Daniel Brown, England	66-71-69	206	-4
Eric Cole, United States	76-64-66	206	-4
Cameron John, Australia	70-67-69	206	-4
Kazuma Kobori, New Zealand	70-69-67	206	-4
Shane Lowry, Ireland	69-68-69	206	-4
Hideki Matsuyama, Japan	72-67-67	206	-4
Jon Rahm, Spain	69-67-70	206	-4
Xander Schauffele, United States	71-69-66	206	-4
Scottie Scheffler, United States	68-68-70	206	-4
Josele Ballester, Spain	71-70-66	207	-3
Jacob Bridgeman, United States	70-69-68	207	-3
Nicolas Echavarria, Colombia	71-67-69	207	-3
Max Homa, United States	71-69-67	207	-3
Sungjae Im, South Korea	66-72-69	207	-3
Robert MacIntyre, Scotland	67-69-71	207	-3
Alex Smalley, United States	67-73-67	207	-3
Justin Thomas, United States	70-69-68	207	-3
Cameron Young, United States	67-67-73	207	-3
Hennie Du Plessis, S. Africa	70-69-69	208	-2
Casey Jarvis, S. Africa	73-67-68	208	-2
Rory McIlroy, N. Ireland	72-67-69	208	-2
Francesco Molinari, Italy	67-69-72	208	-2
Collin Morikawa, United States	68-70-70	208	-2
Kristoffer Reitan, Norway	69-71-68	208	-2
Jordan L. Smith, England	68-70-70	208	-2
Sahith Theegala, United States	71-69-68	208	-2
Matt Wallace, England	69-67-72	208	-2
Bud Cauley, United States	68-68-73	209	-1
Corey Conners, Canada	71-67-71	209	-1
Pierceson Coody, United States	67-70-72	209	-1
Alex Fitzpatrick, England	69-67-73	209	-1
Russell Henley, United States	70-71-68	209	-1
John Keefer, United States	70-68-71	209	-1
Alex Noren, Sweden	71-69-69	209	-1
Shaun Norris, S. Africa	69-70-70	209	-1
Marco Penge, England	72-68-69	209	-1
Patrick Reed, United States	72-66-71	209	-1
Adam Scott, Australia	72-66-71	209	-1
Michael Thorbjornsen, United States	70-68-71	209	-1
Michael Brennan, United States	72-68-70	210	E
Patrick Cantlay, United States	71-68-71	210	E
Thomas Detry, Belgium	67-69-74	210	E
Chris Gotterup, United States	70-68-72	210	E
Kurt Kitayama, United States	69-71-70	210	E
Brooks Koepka, United States	70-71-69	210	E
Victor Perez, France	68-69-73	210	E
J.J. Spaun, United States	70-67-73	210	E
MJ Daffue, S. Africa	67-72-72	211	+1
Rickie Fowler, United States	71-69-71	211	+1
Tyrrell Hatton, England	69-68-74	211	+1
Naoyuki Kataoka, Japan	73-68-70	211	+1
Eugenio Lopez-Chacarra, Spain	70-70-71	211	+1
Nick Taylor, Canada	68-71-72	211	+1
Ryo Hisatsune, Japan	68-73-71	212	+2
Min Woo Lee, Australia	70-71-71	212	+2
John Parry, England	71-68-73	212	+2
Marcus Plunkett, United States	70-71-71	212	+2
Aldrich Potgieter, S. Africa	69-72-71	212	+2
Sepp Straka, Austria	68-70-74	212	+2
Andy Sullivan, England	70-69-73	212	+2
Ben Griffin, United States	69-70-74	213	+3
Kazuki Higa, Japan	73-68-72	213	+3
Peter Uihlein, United States	73-68-72	213	+3
Laurie Canter, England	69-71-74	214	+4
Jack McDonald, Scotland	70-71-73	214	+4
Matthew Southgate, England	69-69-76	214	+4
Keegan Bradley, United States	69-72-74	215	+5
Jesper Svensson, Sweden	73-66-77	216	+6

PGA/DP Corales Puntacana Championship
At Corales Golf Club; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Purse: $4 million; Yardage: 7,670; Par: 72
Third Round

Todd Clements	65-66-67	198	-18
Benjamin James	67-66-67	200	-16
Stefano Mazzoli,	67-69-66	202	-14
Max McGreevy,	71-66-65	202	-14
Gordon Sargent	66-67-69	202	-14
Blades Brown	67-69-67	203	-13
Joe Highsmith	68-67-68	203	-13
Jacob Skov Olesen	67-69-67	203	-13
Marcel Schneider	70-66-67	203	-13
Aaron Wise	71-66-66	203	-13
Dylan Frittelli	72-66-66	204	-12
Will Gordon	69-70-65	204	-12
Thomas Rosenmueller	70-66-68	204	-12
Jonathan Byrd	66-72-67	205	-11
Alejandro Del Re	66-68-71	205	-11
Zachary Bauchou	71-67-68	206	-10
Filippo Celli	67-70-69	206	-10
Joel Dahmen	71-66-69	206	-10
Nick Dunlap	67-72-67	206	-10
A.J. Ewart	69-69-68	206	-10
Marcus Helligkilde	69-68-69	206	-10
Paul Peterson	68-70-68	206	-10
Chez Reavie	71-69-66	206	-10
Hayden Springer	69-70-67	206	-10
John VanDerLaan	73-68-65	206	-10
Johannes Veerman	66-67-73	206	-10

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	15	10	.600	—
Indiana	16	10	.615	—
Liberty	13	12	.520	2½
Washington	12	12	.500	3
Toronto	10	15	.400	5
Chicago	9	16	.360	6
Connecticut	7	18	.280	8

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	20	6	.769	—
Golden State	19	7	.731	1
Las Vegas	17	7	.708	1½
Dallas	16	8	.667	2½
Portland	11	15	.423	9
Los Angeles	10	14	.417	8½
Phoenix	8	18	.308	11½
Seattle	6	21	.222	14

Saturday
Indiana 108, **Liberty** 88
Minnesota 101, Portland 93
Golden State 74, Washington 69

Sunday
Los Angeles at Dallas, 1pm
Chicago at Atlanta, 4pm
Connecticut at Phoenix, 7pm

Monday
Liberty at Dallas, 8pm
Las Vegas at Toronto, 8pm
Minnesota at Seattle, 10pm
Washington at Golden State, 10pm

Tuesday
No games scheduled.

Fever 108, Liberty 88

Liberty

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Johannes	17:42	4-12	0-0	0-2	1	4	12
Stewart	31:39	10-16	4-9	2-8	3	4	26
Jones	27:26	4-9	3-3	1-6	2	3	13
Astier	22:34	3-6	3-3	1-2	5	4	9
Ionescu	33:32	4-9	2-4	0-1	4	2	12
Allen	17:48	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	4	0
Fauthoux	15:03	2-4	0-2	0-0	4	0	4
Maley	13:38	1-5	2-2	2-3	0	2	5
Xu	12:46	1-4	0-0	0-4	0	0	3
Carrera	7:52	1-1	1-2	0-0	0	1	4
Totals	200:00	30-67	15-25	7-27	19	24	88

Percentages: FG .448, FT .600. **3-point goals:** 13-32, .406 (Johannes 4-11, Ionescu 2-4, Jones 2-4, Stewart 2-4, Carrera 1-1, Xu 1-2, Maley 1-3, Allen 0-1, Astier 0-1, Fauthoux 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 12. **Team turnovers:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 6 (Stewart 3, Allen, Jones, Xu). **Turnovers:** 15 (Jones 5, Stewart 4, Johannes 3, Fauthoux, Ionescu, Xu). **Steals:** 8 (Astier 3, Jones 2, Ionescu, Johannes, Stewart). **Technicals:** None.

Indiana

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Billings	17:46	2-5	0-0	2-6	2	3	4
Hull	18:39	3-5	0-0	1-2	2	5	8
Boston	23:39	6-11	2-3	2-7	4	4	15
Clark	26:13	5-14	5-5	0-2	7	2	17
Mitchell	29:33	10-14	9-13	0-0	1	3	33
Timpson	23:58	1-2	0-0	1-5	0	3	2
Cunningham	21:39	3-6	2-2	2-4	1	2	11
Harris	20:40	4-8	2-2	0-2	4	1	11
Hines-Allen	14:20	2-3	0-2	0-3	1	0	5
Johnson	3:33	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	2
Totals	200:00	37-69	20-27	8-32	22	24	108

Percentages: FG .536, FT .741. **3-point goals:** 14-28, .500 (Mitchell 4-6, Cunningham 3-4, Hull 2-4, Clark 2-8, Hines-Allen 1-1, Boston 1-2, Harris 1-3). **Team rebounds:** 15. **Team turnovers:** 1. **Blocked shots:** 5 (Cunningham 2, Billings, Boston, Timpson). **Turnovers:** 16 (Clark 7, Boston 5, Mitchell 3, Hull). **Steals:** 7 (Boston 2, Hines-Allen 2, Hull 2, Mitchell). **Technicals:** Clark, 8:29 first.

Liberty	28	21	12	27	— 88
Indiana	22	23	30	33	— 108

A: 17,274 (20,000).

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Sturdy (1st)
Lock Record: 4 for 9 (44%)
Meet Record: 23/100 $130.82

1 — 1 1/8m; $43,000; clm($20,000); 3up

Kathynmarissa ($6.58) got up late to win the Diana under a perfectly timed ride by Jose Ortiz. And hope you had Baby Vino ($58) in the Haskell.

In the Sunday opener. **STURDY** was a winner going 1m&70yds at Parx but last of 5 racing 1 1/4 miles at Aqueduct. Rebounds for Weaver moving lower, running shorter. Rice's **CURVINO** is 2 for 22 after missing by a 1/2 dozen last pair. Scored at this longer distance last October. Hasn't won since. Irad replaces Franco who will ride Sturdy. **MCDIESEL** Turf to dirt for Rudy Rodriguez. Won last dirt start by a head. Beats top 2 to the lead before giving way. **THORSNESS** beat a modest group and was claimed by Dutrow. Using in deep exotics.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Thorsness(L),126	K Carmouche	1-2-2	R Dutrow	8-1
2	Airborne Elite(L),126	T Gaffalione	3-7-3	Potts	12-1
3	McDiesel(L),126	E Zayas	10-1-3	Rodriguez	6-1
4	American Grant(L),126	R Santana, Jr	9-10-6	B Brown	12-1
5	Natural Hunk(L),126	J Rodriguez	5-4-1	Ferraro	15-1
6	Sturdy(L),126	M Franco	5-1-2	Weaver	7-5
7	Curvino(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	5-3-4	Rice	9-5
8	Notfanutin(L),126	E De Diego	4-2-4	Gutterson	30-1

2 — 5 1/2 fur(T); $56,000; mdn clm($50,000); 3up(f)

On the turf. **FOREVER TO GO** moves back to the grass off the layoff for Hennig. Length short, lone start at this distance. Choice moving lower. **WAITINONAPROMISE** debuted 3rd after dueling on the lead. Runs shorter; rider change to J Ortiz. **DREAMY GIRL** broke well but still finished last of 6. Route to sprint for Antonucci. Value's up; Davis up.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Iwokeuplikethis,122	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Nevin	12-1
2	Emergency Nine(L),122	R Santana, Jr	6-x-x	Clement	8-1
3	Montevertine(M),122	E Zayas	x-x-x	James Bond	15-1
4	Froghollowsummer(L),126	R Silvera	8-5-5	C Martin	15-1
5	Raynham Hall(L),122	C Elliott	5-3-4	Rodriguez	8-1
6	Dreamy Girl(L),122	D Davis	6-5-9	Antonucci	15-1
7	Battle Rifle(L),122	H Harkie	7-6-7	Davis	50-1
8	All Bright(M),122	K Davis	x-x-x	Duggan	10-1
9	Forever to Go(L),126	K Carmouche	7-5-8	Hennig	6-1
10	Ticket to Ride(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	10-2-3	Joseph	7-2
11	Mizty Fog(L),126	L Saez	12-3-5	Falcone	15-1
12	Waitin'onapromise(L),122	J Ortiz	3-x-x	Rice	3-1
13	Stella Fortuna(L),122	R Gutierrez	4-7-x	Miceli	15-1
14	Garden of Grace(L),126	J Rodriguez	4-2-3	Potts	6-1
15	Avery's Wonderland(L),122	R Silvera	7-5-5	R Dutrow	12-1
16	Mischievous Jo(L),122	T Gaffalione	9-x-x	Schettino	15-1

3 — 1 mile; $41,000; mdn clm($20,000); 3up

Mott takes **SFUMATO** lower. Outrun all 3 starts. Responds. Rider change to Alvarado. **BARGAIN PURCHASE** debuted with a dud in February. Sprint to route and lower for Chad Brown. Blinkers off. **MR RT** is 0 for 10 but 2nd best last pair. Neck short at this distance. Blinkers on.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Bargain Purchase(L),121	M Franco	7-x-x	C Brown	3-1
2	Baby Meanie(L),121	R Santana, Jr	5-3-4	Ferraro	10-1
3	Bootsy's a Rascal(L),121	J Rodriguez	7-4-8	Schettino	15-1
4	Start the Day(L),121	D Davis	6-11-x	Donk	8-1
5	Mr R T(L),126	F Prat	2-2-5	Jimenez	5-1
6	Inherent Promise(L),126	T Gaffalione	8-3-2	Lewis	8-1
7	Big Brooklyn(L),121	K Davis	5-8-3	C Martin	15-1
8	Sfumato(L),121	J Alvarado	5-7-5	Mott	5-2
9	Yahearmenow(L),126	C Gonzalez	x-x-x	Hooper	30-1
10	Trail Blaze(L),121	J Ortiz	4-3-6	Rice	8-1

4 — 1 mile; $78,000; alw; 3YO(f)

Oh Mama! **SPARKLING MAMA** is 2 for 3 at this distance after a stretch long duel ended in victory. Right back for Schettino. McPeek's **SPITFIRE** has hit the board 6 of 8 on dirt. One of the misses was a 4th place finish in a 200k. **UBIQUE** won at 2nd asking. Finished full of run and should get the extra furlong. Irad rides for Joseph. **KILLA SALLY** ran 3rd behind top pair last 2 starts.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Celestial Body(L),123	L Saez	1-2-4	Bartkowski	15-1
2	Spitfire(L),121	E Zayas	2-4-2	McPeek	2-1
3	Quality of Essence(L),123	D Davis	1-5-3	Margotta	12-1
4	Killa Sally(L),123	J Ortiz	3-3-1	McPeek	3-1
5	Hot Gossip(L),123	M Franco	4-5-1	Rice	8-1
6	Ubique(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	1-2-x	Joseph	5-1
7	Ur Desire(L),123	J Rodriguez	4-10-1	Schultz	8-1
8	Sparkling Mama(L),123	F Prat	1-4-4	Schettino	5-1

5 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $100,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Last of 12 from the gate, **AMAZING GRACER** rallied to be a neighborhood 4th. Rider change to Franco. Better break, better result. **PROMISE ME AMELODY** (Clement/Rodriguez/Macleans Music) makes career debut if we're off turf. **RIZZ** makes 3YO debut for Adam Rice. 1 turf start; a midpack 4th. Does she need a race? Irad will be the first to know. Blinkers off; 1st time lasix. **FACTORY SETTING** was 3rd, a length better than the gate-troubled top pick.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Factory Setting(L),121	F Prat	3-3-6	C Brown	3-1
2	Little Finch(L),126	J Alvarado	6-x-x	James Bond	15-1
3	Amazing Gracer(L),126	M Franco	4-4-3	James Bond	4-1
4	Adroit(L),121	K Davis	6-x-x	Ferraro	30-1
5	Magic in My Eyes(M),121	J Rodriguez	8-5-2	Green	20-1
6	No Tide(L),121	T Gaffalione	8-x-x	Antonacci	10-1
7	Okay Annie(L),121	D Davis	4-x-x	Duggan	5-1
8	Saratoga Daisy(L),121	K Carmouche	4-8-x	Donk	12-1
9	Rizz(M),121	I Ortiz, Jr	4-4-6	Rice	8-1
10	Ganderella(L),121	E Zayas	7-x-x	Terranova II	12-1
11	Axis Point(L),121	L Saez	11-5-x	Bartkowski	20-1
12	Pelican Pride(L),121	J Ortiz	10-3-x	DeVaux	8-1
13	Promise Me Amelody(M),121	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Clement	5-2
14	Suited Connectors(L),121	R Santana, Jr	5-x-x	Clement	9-2

6 — 5 1/2 fur; $90,000; mdn; 2YO

Debut day for 2YO **CRYPTO KING**. Franco rides the Army Mule colt for Riley Mott. **BLACKJACK** debuted 3rd at 29-1. Shorter price, same distance if he draws in off the AE. **BET BOLD** raced wide and landed 4th of 7 in his opener. Another chance. **TONJAS TREASURE** (Terranova/Prat/Speakers Corner) and **ED CHARLES** (C Englehart/Alvarado/Keep Me In Mind) make career debuts as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Ed Charles,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Englehart	8-1
2	Vapor Trail,123	R Silvera	6-x-x	Friedman	12-1
3	Bet Bold,123	J Lezcano	4-x-x	Barrera III	12-1
4	George St.,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	7-2
5	Diamond Juan,123	R Gutierrez	5-x-x	Jimenez	15-1
6	Braums Run,123	D Davis	3-x-x	Casse	4-1
7	Crypto King,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Mott	3-1
8	Tonja's Treasure,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Terranova II	6-1
9	Tutto a Posto,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Hennig	15-1
10	Covered Option,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Bartkowski	15-1
11	Hurricane Mo,123	R Santana, Jr	2-3-x	Delgado	7-2
12	Blackjack,123	E Zayas	3-x-x	Delgado	5-2
13	Knee High,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Gorham	12-1
14	Nodin,123	J Baez	9-x-x	Barrera III	30-1

7 — 1 3/8 miles(T); $125,000; alw; 3up(f)

Three turns on the inner turf. **SOL DORO** ran this distance at Aqueduct and raced evenly, a couple of lengths short. J Ortiz a good sign. **DOMINO VITALE** MTO. 2 for 4. Ran 2nd in the Serenas Song last out. **SILVOLOGY** turned in 4 lengths short racing off the 13 month layoff. Better 2nd off the shelf. Proven at this longer distance. **AGIA MARINA** stretched to this distance and won by 5+. Green has her competitively spotted for repeat.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Silvology(L),126	D Davis	5-3-2	McGaughey III	5-1
2	Agia Marina(L),126	J Rodriguez	1-5-4	Green	6-1
3	National Archive(L),126	F Prat	4-3-6	Clement	9-2
4	Sailaway(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-1-6	Rodriguez	20-1
5	Snipsnippitysnip(L),126	T Gaffalione	4-1-5	Walsh	8-1
6	Don't Jinx It(L),126	M Franco	4-3-2	Clement	9-2
7	Vronti(GB)(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	5-1-1	Motion	5-2
8	Sol d'Oro(L),126	J Ortiz	3-8-1	Sharp	5-1
9	Concurrently(L),121	F Prat	1-3-1	C Brown	2-1
10	Domino Vitali(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-2	Delgado	9-5

8 — 1 mile; $120,000; alw; 3up

The **IRON DOME** ran well for 2nd, this distance at Oaklawn. Returns to Saratoga where he's 3 for 4 including an open length win in the Albany last summer. Saez rides for Asmussen. **PLAYA DEL MAR** won his last 2 starts by a combined 16+ lengths at the Big A. Runs same distance; no history at the Spa. **THRILLA** held on to score by 3/4 at Churchill. Now 2 for 2 in the mud. Alvarado picks up the mount for Romans.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Georgia Magic(L),126	J Rodriguez	1-4-2	Schauer	3-1
2	Playa Del Mar(L),126	M Franco	1-1-2	Rice	2-1
3	Envision(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	6-1-x	Walden	8-1
4	Iron Dome(L),126	L Saez	2-6-2	Asmussen	9-5
5	Thrilla(L),126	J Alvarado	1-12-2	Romans	10-1
6	Freddie B(M),121	C Elliott	1-x-x	McPeek	12-1
7	Forever Man(M),121	K Davis	1-1-5	Proctor	15-1

9 — 5 1/2 fur(T); $225,000; Quick Call; 3YO

The Sunday feature is the Quick Call. **EWING** makes turf debut for Casse. Went 2 for 2 on the dirt here last summer including the Grade 2 Saratoga Special. J Ortiz on the wildcard. **JOHNNY RED STORM** makes 3YO debut for Weaver. 2 for 2 as a 2YO including a front running score in a stake at Kentucky Downs. Will have to deal with **INTRICATE SPIRIT** early on. Won the Paradise Creek gate-to-wire.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Ewing,124	J Ortiz	6-1-1	Casse	6-1
2	Learntodiscover(GB),120	T Gaffalione	4-4-6	Walsh	20-1
3	Throckmorton,124	L Saez	3-2-2	Summers	10-1
4	Intricate Spirit,124	M Franco	1-9-3	Clement	12-1
5	Monster,122	E Zayas	3-2-5	D'Angelo	20-1
6	Unwritten Rule,124	J Lezcano	1-2-2	Proctor	12-1
7	Longshoreman,120	J Rodriguez	3-2-5	Ward	12-1
8	Cy Fair,119	J Velazquez	1-3-1	Weaver	9-5
9	Stradale,122	R Santana, Jr	6-2-1	Asmussen	12-1
10	Johnny's Red Storm,124	F Prat	1-1-x	Weaver	5-1
11	Rockies Balboa,122	D Davis	1-5-2	Romans	30-1
12	Bobrovsky,124	J Alvarado	4-1-1	Romans	10-1
13	El Magnate,122	I Ortiz, Jr	1-1-x	Casse	8-1
14	Oscar's Hope,124	Rider TBA	6-3-2	LaRose	4-1

10 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $55,000; clm($35,000); 3up(f)

ARTISTIC SUCCESS Late run to get 3rd money racing off the layoff for Joe Sharp. Choice, 2nd off the shelf, stretching to a route. **SO VAIN** MTO. **ROAGNA** is 1 for 13. Led, settled for 2nd last out. Contender, but not sure she wants more ground.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Twirly(L),126	J Lezcano	6-5-6	Mott	6-1
2	Roagna(L),126	E Zayas	2-3-8	James Bond	7-2
3	Mermaid(L),121	R Santana, Jr	8-1-3	A Dutrow	4-1
4	Luckforyou(L),126	K Davis	7-5-3	Romero	20-1
5	Artistic Success(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	3-5-11	Sharp	5-2
6	Leslie's Star(L),126	J Alvarado	4-5-3	Potts	8-1
7	Bossy Dish(L),126	L Saez	6-3-4	Rodriguez	15-1
8	Doppio Espresso(L),121	F Prat	2-8-7	Handal	12-1
9	Roseberns Dream(L),121	J Rodriguez	1-7-9	Schettino	20-1
10	Greyjoy(L),121	D Davis	3-9-8	Terranova II	10-1
11	So Vain(L),121	Rider TBA	3-6-1	Nevin	4-1
12	Tahila(L),126	M Franco	10-7-6	Kantarmaci	5-1
13	Here'syourtrouble(L),126	Rider TBA	5-6-1	Rodriguez	8-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Bring back Aqueduct or open Belmont because we can't do anything right at Saratoga. Mo The Merrier (5-1) looked ready to pounce but flattened in the mud.

Things got worse at Monmouth. The Puma (5-2) ran home a rusty 4th in the Haskell. Loss of $60. One and done on Sunday. Race 1. Play $30 to win on Sturdy.

— Vic Cangialosi

Saratoga Results

FIRST-6 fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO

2	Th Good Lf (Frnco)	8.80	4.16	3.32
4	Powerline (Santana,Jr.)		3.48	2.90
1	Got Tough (Alvarado)			5.86

Scr: Jack's Golden Goal

● $1 Exacta (2-4) $10.80 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-4-1-3) $24.66 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-4-1) $34.55

SECOND-1 mile 1 fur; $65,000; cl($30,0); 4up

3	My Nbl Knght (Ortz)	7.86	3.92	2.78
4	Spoiler (Santana,Jr.)		3.88	2.76
1	Bernin Hot (Franco)			3.12

Scr: Power Seeker

● $1 Double (2-3) $22.68 ● $1 Exacta (3-4) $14.01 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-4-1) $20.50

THIRD-7 fur; $70,000; st alc($40,000); 3up

1	Solo Jm (Alvardo)	8.26	4.18	3.32
4	Come Full Crcle (Franco)		5.00	3.88
9	Stayfrostymyfriend (Davis)			7.04

● $1 Double (3-1) $25.11 ● $1 Exacta (1-4) $16.90 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-4-9) $122.51

FOURTH-5½ fur; $125,000; alw; 3up

4	Shape Note (Davs)	5.64	3.56	2.24
6	War Stride (Velazquez)		5.44	2.84
2	Dhabab (IRE) (Carmouche)			2.48

Scr: SpicedUp, Attfield, Mentee, BiteandStrike

● $1 Double (1-4) $10.71 ● $1 Exacta (4-6) $12.61 ● $1 Quinella (4-6) $7.74 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-6-2) $10.42

Quinella picked by Vic C

FIFTH-1 1/8 milesT; $500,000; Diana; 4upf

3	Kathynmrss (Ortz)	6.58	3.50	2.38
6	Segesta (Davis)		5.24	3.16
4	Portfolo Duraton (GB) (Frnco)			2.82

● $1 Pick 3 (1-4-3) $31.82 ● $1 Double (4-3) $9.55 ● $1 Exacta (3-6) $12.79 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-6-4-2) $9.08 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-6-4) $14.28

SIXTH-6 fur; $120,000; alc; 3up

1	Tb At Znzbr (Frnc)	6.10	3.66	2.82
4	Caldo Candy (Rodriguez)		9.06	5.60
7	Oil Capital (Lezcano)			6.42

Scr: Agoo

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (4-3-6) $8.12 ● $1 Pick 3 (4-3-1) $25.57 ● $1 Double (3-1) $9.75 ● $1 Exacta (1-4) $23.87 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-4-7-3) $56.77 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-4-7) $65.54

SEVENTH-6 fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F

1	Effusive (Franco)	6.10	3.58	2.62
8	Key Colony Bch (Gutrrz)		5.30	3.36
2	Energy Flows (Santana,Jr.)			3.42

Scr: Elevated, Fifth and Chestnut

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (3-1-7) $10.14 ● $1 Pick 3 (3-1-1) $31.82 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (4-3-1/6-1/5/7) $26.55 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1-4-3-1/6-1/5/7) $130.60 ● $1 Daily Double (1-1) $9.18 ● $1 Exacta (1-8) $18.48 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-8-2-6) $19.22 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-8-2) $40.52 ● $1 Consolation Double (1-7) $2.97

Winner picked by Vic C

EIGHTH-5½f; $225,000; Coronation Cup; 3Y

2	Cy Far (Velzquez)	3.06	2.10	2.10
3	Spphre Bech (IRE) (Ortz)		2.58	2.10
4	Cadenza (Franco)			2.32

Scr: Quiet Street, Niche, Hot Currency

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-1-7/8) $7.84 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-7-2) $4.05 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-7-7/8) $2.61 ● $1 Pick 3 (1-1-2) $12.09 ● $1 Daily Double (1-2) $5.05 ● $1 Exacta (2-3) $2.45 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-3-4-5) $0.57 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-3-4) $1.79

Double picked by Vic C (Lock)

NINTH-7 fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 3up

3	Stmulate (Alvrdo)	7.58	4.52	3.24
9	Gadget Play (SantanaJr.)		4.06	3.34
1	Criteria (Ortiz)			3.12

Scr: Sidearm

● $1 Pick 3 (1-2-3) $22.23 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (1/6-1/5/7-1/2/7/8-2/3) $24.01 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (3-1/6-1/5/7-1/2/7/8-2/3) $83.56 ● $1 Daily Double (2-3) $5.28 ● $1 Exacta (3-9) $18.86 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-9-1-5) $19.87 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-9-1) $36.55

TENTH-1 mile; $110,000; alw; 3up

3	Annxprnc (Crmch)	3.52	2.70	2.10
1	King's Leap (Santana,Jr.)		6.24	3.26
5	Whittington Park (Franco)			2.44

Scr: Three B's

● $1 Pick 3 (2-3-3) $13.90 ● $1 Double (3-3) $7.54 ● $1 Exacta (3-1) $9.87 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-1-5-6) $16.20 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-1-5) $10.83

Winner picked by Vic C

ELEVENTH-1 mile; $110,000; alw; 3up

5	Lon Blu (Crmouch)	16.34	9.38	7.76
3	Cable Ready (Lezcano)		14.76	9.56
9	Shared Success (Zayas)			9.08

Scr: Terminal Velocity, Conman, Iron Max, Jack and Jim, Beary Funny

● $1 Pick 3 (3-3-5) $57.64 ● $1 Double (3-5) $15.67 ● $1 Exacta (5-3) $73.81 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-3-9-1) $187.55 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-3-9) $293.28

TWELFTH-5½ fur; $100,000; mdn; 3up (f&m)

1	My Frst Dnh (Gtrrz)	30.58	9.20	5.10
9	Combat Move (Ortiz)		5.66	4.26
8	My Lil Army Girl (Franco)			3.94

Scr: Aperitif, Daylight Dreamer, Shake Em Off

● $1 Pick 3 (3-5-1) $201.41 ● $1 Double (5-1) $142.11 ● $1 Exacta (1-9) $101.16 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-9-8-5) $167.68 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-9-8) $151.64

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	56	41	.577	—	—	4-6	L-4	35-15	21-26
Yankees	54	43	.557	2	+5	5-5	L-1	23-21	31-22
Boston	49	48	.505	7	—	10-0	W-12	20-27	29-21
Baltimore	48	51	.485	9	2	7-3	W-6	28-25	20-26
Toronto	46	52	.469	10½	3½	4-6	W-1	25-26	21-26

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	51	46	.526	—	—	6-4	L-1	31-17	20-29
Cleveland	52	47	.525	—	+2	5-5	W-1	25-23	27-24
Minnesota	49	50	.495	3	1	7-3	L-1	26-25	23-25
Detroit	46	52	.469	5½	3½	8-2	W-2	27-23	19-29
Kansas City	40	59	.404	12	10	5-5	W-2	23-26	17-33

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	50	48	.510	—	—	5-5	W-1	24-22	26-26
Seattle	49	50	.495	1½	1	4-6	W-1	28-21	21-29
Houston	47	53	.470	4	3½	4-6	L-3	23-26	24-27
Athletics	42	56	.429	8	7½	1-9	W-1	20-29	22-27
Los Angeles	38	61	.384	12½	12	2-8	L-4	21-27	17-34

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, ppd.
Pittsburgh 7, Cleveland 1, 1st gm.
Cubs 6, Minnesota 2
Toronto 1, White Sox 0
Kansas City 6, San Diego 1
Boston 7, Tampa Bay 6
Texas 7, Atlanta 6
Baltimore 4, Houston 2, 11 inn.
Cleveland 5, Pittsburgh 3, 2nd gm.
Seattle 4, San Francisco 3, 10 inn.
Detroit 7, L.A. Angels 0
Athletics 15, Washington 1

Sunday

L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, 12:35, 1st gm.
L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, 7:20, 2nd gm.
White Sox at Toronto, 12:15
Tampa Bay at Boston, 1:35
Texas at Atlanta, 1:35
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1:40
Baltimore at Houston, 2:10
San Diego at Kansas City, 2:10
Minnesota at Cubs, 2:20
Washington at Athletics, 4:05
Detroit at L.A. Angels, 4:07
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:10

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	56	41	.577	—	—	4-6	L-1	28-19	28-22
Philadelphia	55	44	.556	2	+3	5-5	W-1	26-22	29-22
Miami	52	47	.525	5	—	5-5	L-5	31-20	21-27
Washington	49	50	.495	8	3	3-7	L-1	20-31	29-19
Mets	41	58	.414	16	11	5-5	L-1	21-28	20-30

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	61	37	.622	—	—	6-4	W-2	31-18	30-19
Chicago	55	43	.561	6	+3½	6-4	W-1	28-20	27-23
St. Louis	51	46	.526	9½	—	4-6	L-1	26-26	25-20
Pittsburgh	51	48	.515	10½	1	7-3	L-1	27-24	24-24
Cincinnati	44	53	.454	16½	7	4-6	L-1	22-28	22-25

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	62	36	.633	—	—	5-5	W-1	31-19	31-17
Arizona	50	48	.510	12	1½	6-4	W-1	28-21	22-27
San Diego	48	50	.490	14	3½	5-5	L-2	27-24	21-26
San Francisco	42	56	.429	20	9½	5-5	L-1	22-25	20-31
Colorado	40	60	.400	23	12½	4-6	W-1	23-26	17-34

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Philadelphia 6, **Mets** 1
L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, ppd.
Pittsburgh 7, Cleveland 1, 1st gm.
Cubs 6, Minnesota 2
Colorado 10, Cincinnati 3
Kansas City 6, San Diego 1
Arizona 5, St. Louis 3
Texas 7, Atlanta 6
Milwaukee 8, Miami 6
Cleveland 5, Pittsburgh 3, 2nd gm.
Seattle 4, San Francisco 3, 10 inn.
Athletics 15, Washington 1

Sunday

L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, 12:35, 1st gm.
Mets at Philadelphia, 1:35
L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, 7:20, 2nd gm.
Texas at Atlanta, 1:35
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1:40
Miami at Milwaukee, 2:10
San Diego at Kansas City, 2:10
Minnesota at Cubs, 2:20
Cincinnati at Colorado, 3:10
Washington at Athletics, 4:05
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:10
St. Louis at Arizona, 4:10

Phillies 6, Mets 1

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.205
Soto dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.288
Bichette 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.251
Alvarez c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.256
Benge rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.260
Semien 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Taylor lf	3	1	2	1	0	0	.226
Ewing cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.275
Wagaman 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.162
Totals	**31**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**11**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	4	3	3	1	1	0	.241
Schwarber dh	3	2	1	2	2	0	.255
Harper 1b	4	0	1	2	0	1	.261
Bohm 3b	5	0	2	1	0	0	.216
Sosa lf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.225
Crawford cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Marsh rf-lf	4	0	0	0	1	3	.294
Realmuto c	3	0	2	0	1	0	.214
Hill cf-rf	4	0	0	0	0	4	.250
Stott 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.247
Totals	**36**	**6**	**12**	**6**	**5**	**10**	

Mets	**010 000 000 —**	**1**	**3**	**3**
Philadelphia	**200 022 00x —**	**6**	**12**	**1**

E: Benge (5), Alvarez (4), Lindor (6), Turner (14). **LOB:** New York 5, Philadelphia 12. **3B:** Stott (5). **HR:** Taylor (7), off Luzardo; Schwarber (33), off Manaea; Turner (12), off Manaea. **RBIs:** Taylor (18), Schwarber 2 (61), Turner (35), Bohm (48), Harper 2 (59). **SB:** Ewing (10), Turner (17). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 3 (Lindor, Wagaman, Benge); Philadelphia 7 (Hill 2, Turner, Stott, Schwarber, Marsh 2). **RISP:** New York 0 for 3; Philadelphia 2 for 15. **Runners moved up:** Stott, Realmuto, Bohm.

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Manaea, L, 2-5	4.2	7	4	4	2	7	99	4.74
Senga	1.1	3	2	2	3	2	45	8.85
Curry	2.0	2	0	0	0	1	19	2.70

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo, W, 9-4	5.0	2	1	1	2	7	90	3.43
Kerkering, H, 9	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.37
Alvarado	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	16	6.62
Shugart	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	29	4.65

T: 2:49. **A:** 41,133 (42,901).

Diamondbacks 5, Cardinals 3

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.264
Herrera dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Burleson 1b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.275
Walker rf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.293
Nootbaar lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.259
Winn ss	2	0	1	1	1	0	.246
Church cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Fermín 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.261
Pagés c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.209
Torres ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.191
Crooks c	1	1	1	1	0	0	.185
Totals	**35**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**2**	**7**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	3	1	2	1	1	0	.259
Perdomo ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	.238
Carroll rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.250
Moreno dh	3	2	2	0	1	0	.309
Kepler lf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.190
Arenado 3b	4	0	2	2	0	0	.244
Tawa 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.217
Vargas 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.258
McCann c	4	0	1	1	0	2	.229
Waldschmidt cf	3	1	1	0	0	2	.252
Barrosa cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.186
Totals	**30**	**5**	**8**	**4**	**5**	**8**	

St. Louis	**000 002 001 —**	**3**	**8**	**0**
Arizona	**013 100 00x —**	**5**	**8**	**0**

LOB: St. Louis 8, Arizona 6. **2B:** Arenado (18), Waldschmidt (10). **HR:** Crooks (3), off Sewald. **RBIs:** Walker (75), Winn (42), Crooks (9), McCann (11), Arenado 2 (42), Marte (55). **SB:** Winn (8). **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 4 (Burleson, Nootbaar, Church 2); Arizona 3 (Moreno, Tawa, Waldschmidt). **RISP:** St. Louis 2 for 7; Arizona 3 for 9. **DP:** St. Louis 2 (Wetherholt, Winn, Burleson; Winn, Burleson).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
May, L, 5-7	5.0	8	5	5	4	6	98	4.78
Graceffo	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	2.85
Bruihl	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	21	3.59
Svanson	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	6.42

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pfaadt, W, 4-1	5.1	6	2	2	0	3	87	4.58
Thompson, H, 6	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.83
Loáisiga, H, 8	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	15	2.13
Garcia, H, 11	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.82
Ginkel, H, 9	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	18	2.70
Sewald, S, 23-24	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	15	4.58

T: 2:44. **A:** 38,244 (48,359).

Royals 6, Padres 1

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	2	1	1	1	2	0	.282
Merrill cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.214
Bogaerts ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.222
Machado 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.199
Sheets lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.215
France 1b	3	0	2	0	1	0	.274
Cronenworth 2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.199
Andujar dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.264
Fermin c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.156
Totals	**30**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**5**	**5**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	3	2	2	0	1	1	.246
Witt ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.280
Caglianone rf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.260
Thomas cf	4	1	2	2	0	0	.243
Pasquantino 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.223
Perez dh	4	1	1	2	0	2	.211
Massey 2b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.268
Loftin 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Collins lf	3	0	1	1	0	2	.240
Totals	**32**	**6**	**9**	**6**	**2**	**8**	

San Diego	**001 000 000 —**	**1**	**6**	**0**
Kansas City	**201 102 00x —**	**6**	**9**	**0**

LOB: San Diego 7, Kansas City 4. **2B:** Cronenworth (4), France 2 (11), Fermin (8), Caglianone (16), Jensen (21), Thomas (16). **HR:** Tatis (6), off Dobnak; Thomas (9), off Canning; Perez (12), off Waldron. **RBIs:** Tatis (37), Thomas 2 (34), Caglianone (36), Collins (30), Perez 2 (39). **SB:** Tatis (24). **CS:** Collins (5). **RISP:** San Diego 1 for 9; Kansas City 1 for 8. **DP:** Kansas City 3 (Witt, Massey, Pasquantino; Witt, Massey, Pasquantino; Witt, Massey, Pasquantino).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Canning, L, 1-8	3.2	5	4	4	2	4	65	6.67
Waldron	2.1	2	2	2	0	2	27	7.53
Marinaccio	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	4.79
Brito	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	3.38

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Dobnak	4.1	4	1	1	4	3	96	1.93
Cruz	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.64
Lynch, W, 3-2	2.0	2	0	0	0	0	26	2.23
Way	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	3.05
Morgan	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	10	5.12

T: 2:29. **A:** 23,347 (38,427).

Blue Jays 1, White Sox 0

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf-2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.285
Murakami 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.234
Vargas 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.245
C.Montgomery ss	3	0	0	0	1	3	.221
Benintendi dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.242
Teel c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.194
B.Montgomery rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.232
Peters cf-lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.297
Meidroth 2b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.272
Acuña pr-cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Totals	**29**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**3**	**10**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Clement 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.295
Lukes rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.282
Guerrero 1b	3	1	2	0	1	0	.265
Springer dh	4	0	1	1	0	1	.219
Okamoto 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.234
Varsho cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Kirk c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.204
Giménez ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Clase lf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.316
Straw ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.225
Totals	**29**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**6**	

Chicago	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Toronto	**000 100 00x —**	**1**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Chicago 5, Toronto 7. **2B:** Vargas (21), Murakami (6), B.Montgomery (9), Guerrero (15), Varsho (17). **RBIs:** Springer (25). **SB:** Giménez (11). **CS:** Acuña (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 3 (Antonacci, C.Montgomery, Teel); Toronto 3 (Giménez 2, Lukes). **RISP:** Chicago 0 for 7; Toronto 1 for 4. **Runners moved up:** Peters. **GIDP:** Vargas. **DP:** Toronto 1 (Clement, Guerrero).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martin, L, 9-5	5.2	4	1	1	2	5	85	3.31
Newcomb	1.1	1	0	0	1	1	15	2.45
Hicks	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3.71

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bieber, W, 1-1	6.0	3	0	0	2	6	80	5.70
Hoffman, H, 11	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	14	4.46
Rogers, H, 20	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	1.61
Varland, S, 20-20	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	1.08

T: 2:06. **A:** 41,775 (39,150).

Pirates 7, Guardians 1, 1st Gm.

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf-rf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.303
Lowe 2b	4	1	2	0	0	2	.249
Reynolds lf	4	2	2	0	0	2	.285
Valdez rf	4	1	1	2	0	2	.306
Cook cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.171
O'Hearn dh	3	0	0	1	0	2	.285
Gonzales 3b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.310
Callihan 1b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.244
Gonzalez ss	4	1	2	2	0	0	.253
Davis c	4	0	1	0	0	2	.168
Totals	**36**	**7**	**11**	**6**	**0**	**14**	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	4	0	1	1	0	2	.238
Rocchio ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.272
DeLauter rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.277
Manzardo 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.212
Hoskins dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.179
Watson cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.222
Arias 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.229
Bailey c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.182
Kwan lf	2	1	2	0	1	0	.230
Totals	**33**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**13**	

Pittsburgh	**020 003 020 —**	**7**	**11**	**0**
Cleveland	**001 000 000 —**	**1**	**6**	**0**

LOB: Pittsburgh 3, Cleveland 6. **2B:** Callihan (4), Reynolds (23). **3B:** Bazzana (2). **HR:** Gonzalez (3), off Williams; Valdez (11), off Williams; Gonzales (5), off Williams. **RBIs:** Gonzalez 2 (19), Valdez 2 (29), Gonzales (44), O'Hearn (64), Bazzana (29). **SB:** Hoskins (1). **SF:** O'Hearn. **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 0; Cleveland 2 (Bailey, Rocchio). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 1 for 2; Cleveland 0 for 2. **GIDP:** Mangum. **DP:** Cleveland 1 (Bazzana, Rocchio, Manzardo).

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jones, W, 2-1	5.0	3	1	1	1	9	74	4.05
Mldznski, H, 2	3.0	2	0	0	0	2	41	3.12
Mattson	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	20	4.26

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williams, L, 10-5	6.0	7	5	5	0	11	84	4.00
Festa	1.1	2	2	2	0	3	28	4.31
Heuer	1.2	2	0	0	0	0	18	4.66

T: 2:22. **A:** 27,989 (34,788).

Tigers 7, Angels 0

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle ss	5	2	2	0	0	1	.281
Dingler c	3	1	1	0	0	1	.263
Keith 3b	4	1	4	2	0	0	.256
Greene lf	3	0	0	1	0	1	.286
Malgeri rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.269
Torkelson 1b	4	2	2	4	0	1	.209
Carpenter dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.215
McKinstry 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.196
Vierling rf-lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.207
Outman cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.155
Totals	**35**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**1**	**7**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Trout cf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.238
Grissom 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.251
Soler dh	4	0	1	0	0	3	.209
Adell rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.239
Schanuel 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Guzman 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.252
Siri lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.258
Meckler ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.305
O'Hoppe c	2	0	2	0	1	0	.217
Totals	**32**	**0**	**7**	**0**	**2**	**10**	

Detroit	**420 010 000 —**	**7**	**11**	**0**
Los Angeles	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**7**	**1**

E: Grissom (4). **LOB:** Detroit 6, Los Angeles 7. **2B:** McGonigle (19), Dingler (20), McKinstry (7). **HR:** Torkelson (17), off Rodriguez; Torkelson (18), off Suter. **RBIs:** Keith 2 (24), Torkelson 4 (47), Greene (46). **CS:** McKinstry (4). **SF:** Keith, Greene. **RISP:** Detroit 3 for 8; Los Angeles 0 for 3. **DP:** Detroit 2 (Keith, McKinstry, Torkelson; McGonigle, McKinstry, Torkelson); Los Angeles 1 (Neto, Schanuel).

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skubal, W, 6-5	7.0	5	0	0	0	9	87	2.83
Waguespack	0.2	1	0	0	2	1	23	1.38
Finnegan	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.11
Hanifee	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	18	3.07

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez, L, 3-3	4.0	7	6	6	1	3	87	8.23
Suter	3.0	2	1	1	0	2	39	4.55
Fermin	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	29	3.00

T: 2:29. **A:** 32,003 (45,517).

Guardians 5, Pirates 3, 2nd Gm.

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.301
Gonzales 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.309
Reynolds lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.286
Valdez rf	4	0	1	1	0	2	.304
O'Hearn 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.282
Ozuna dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.206
Lowe 2b	2	1	0	1	1	1	.248
Flores c	2	0	0	0	2	1	.333
Triolo ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.235
Gonzalez ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Totals	**31**	**3**	**6**	**2**	**5**	**10**	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	3	1	2	2	2	1	.243
Rocchio ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.272
DeLauter dh	4	1	1	1	0	0	.277
Hoskins 1b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.177
Watson ph-rf	2	0	1	1	0	0	.229
Schneemann 3b-cf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.211
Fry rf	1	0	0	0	1	1	.202
Manzardo ph-1b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.210
Halpin cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.188
Arias ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.227
Hedges c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.285
Bailey ph-c	2	0	1	0	0	1	.186
Kwan lf	4	2	3	0	0	0	.237
Totals	**33**	**5**	**11**	**4**	**4**	**10**	

Pittsburgh	**011 100 000 —**	**3**	**6**	**0**
Cleveland	**000 000 032 —**	**5**	**11**	**1**

One out when winning run scored. **E:** Hedges (4). **LOB:** Pittsburgh 7, Cleveland 7. **2B:** Reynolds (24), Gonzales (15), Valdez (7), Halpin (2), Kwan (11). **HR:** Bazzana (8), off Santana. **RBIs:** Lowe (65), Valdez (30), DeLauter (47), Watson (11), Bazzana 2 (31). **SB:** Watson (9). **SF:** Lowe. **RISP:** Pittsburgh 2 for 10; Cleveland 3 for 9. **DP:** Pittsburgh 2 (Triolo, O'Hearn; Lowe, O'Hearn).

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Montgomery	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	14	4.03
Curtis	5.0	2	0	0	2	4	68	0.00
Ramírez, H, 6	0.2	2	0	0	0	1	14	3.27
Eisert, H, 2	0.2	3	3	3	0	2	22	6.44
Soto, BS, 12-17	0.2	1	0	0	1	2	19	3.98
Santana, L, 2-5	0.1	3	2	2	0	0	9	6.20

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Allen	3.1	6	3	2	3	3	81	2.45
Armstrong	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	10	4.40
Sabrowski	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.54
Aleman	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	14	1.00
Holderman	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	15	1.73
Dion	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	5.11
Smith, W, 3-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	2.78

T: 2:53. **A:** 32,997 (34,788).

Athletics 15, Nationals 1

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.275
García 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.280
Tena dh-2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.241
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.274
Ruiz c	4	1	2	0	0	0	.279
Lile lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.248
Nuñez 2b	1	0	0	0	1	0	.246
Mead ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.255
Vivas 3b-2b-p	2	0	1	1	1	0	.239
Crews cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.208
Totals	**30**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**4**	**11**	

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wilson ss	6	3	3	2	0	1	.288
Soderstrom lf	4	3	2	2	0	0	.245
Langeliers c	3	0	1	3	2	1	.258
Cortes rf	4	2	2	2	0	1	.283
Kuroda-Grauer 3b	4	2	1	2	1	0	.415
Walton 2b	1	2	0	0	3	0	.305
Heim dh	5	0	1	1	0	2	.231
Butler cf	4	1	0	1	1	1	.194
McNeil 1b	5	2	3	2	0	0	.233
Totals	**36**	**15**	**13**	**15**	**7**	**6**	

Washington	**000 000 001 —**	**1**	**4**	**1**
Athletics	**510 002 61x —**	**15**	**13**	**0**

E: Wood (5). **LOB:** Washington 8, Athletics 7. **2B:** Ruiz (18), Cortes (12), Kuroda-Grauer (7), Langeliers (17). **HR:** Wilson (5), off Littell; Soderstrom (16), off Littell; Cortes (7), off Kranick. **RBIs:** Vivas (17), Wilson 2 (28), Cortes 2 (25), Kuroda-Grauer 2 (3), Heim (30), Butler (23), Soderstrom 2 (46), McNeil 2 (28), Langeliers 3 (50). **SF:** Vivas. **RISP:** Washington 1 for 6; Athletics 6 for 13. **DP:** Washington 1 (Nuñez, García).

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Littell, L, 7-7	6.0	8	8	8	4	4	96	5.34
Kranick	0.2	3	5	5	2	1	32	67.50
Palmquist	0.1	1	1	1	0	1	7	6.52
Vivas	1.0	1	1	1	1	0	17	9.00

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ginn, W, 8-6	6.1	1	0	0	3	7	82	3.46
Harris	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	11	3.38
Leiter	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	31	4.28
Medina	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	12	3.71

T: 2:41. **A:** 11,138 (14,014).

Brewers 8, Marlins 6

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lopez ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.335
Hernández lf	4	0	0	0	1	3	.232
Stowers 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.232
Edwards 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.299
Sanoja rf-cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.272
Hicks dh	3	2	1	0	0	0	.289
Jiménez 3b	2	2	1	1	1	0	.216
Ruiz cf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.245
Conine ph-rf	2	1	1	3	0	1	.277
Mack c	4	0	1	1	0	2	.239
Totals	**33**	**6**	**7**	**6**	**2**	**13**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	3	1	1	2	2	1	.244
Chourio lf	3	2	1	2	2	1	.279
Bauers 1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.261
Contreras c	5	0	1	1	0	0	.279
Mitchell cf	5	1	3	2	0	2	.283
Lara rf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.286
Pratt ss	5	1	1	0	0	2	.244
Shewmake 2b	3	2	2	1	0	0	.265
Ortiz 3b	2	1	0	0	2	1	.228
Totals	**35**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**7**	**10**	

Miami	**030 000 003 —**	**6**	**7**	**3**
Milwaukee	**011 004 20x —**	**8**	**10**	**0**

E: Lopez 2 (15), Stowers (5). **LOB:** Miami 5, Milwaukee 11. **2B:** Sanoja (18), Contreras (14), Shewmake (5), Mitchell (21), Yelich (15). **HR:** Conine (7), off Yoho. **RBIs:** Jiménez (9), Mack (24), Lopez (46), Conine 3 (16), Shewmake (10), Contreras (54), Chourio 2 (39), Mitchell 2 (47), Yelich 2 (33). **SB:** Lopez (18), Chourio 2 (10), Mitchell (7), Lara (1), Ortiz (7), Shewmake (1), Yelich (7). **SF:** Lopez, Shewmake. **RISP:** Miami 4 for 9; Milwaukee 5 for 21. **Runners moved up:** Pratt, Yelich, Contreras.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Meyer	3.0	3	2	2	3	5	74	2.68
Gibson	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	20	5.04
Zuber, H, 4	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	22	3.46
Faucher, L, 4-5, BS, 1-6	0.2	3	4	4	2	1	31	5.01
Gusto	2.1	3	2	2	0	2	38	5.34

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Drohan, W, 5-3	6.0	5	3	3	1	9	90	3.20
Uribe, H, 14	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	17	2.43
Yoho	1.0	1	3	3	1	0	18	4.20
Megill, S, 15-17	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	2.84

T: 3:02. **A:** 40,144 (41,700).

Orioles 4, Astros 2, 11 inn.

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Rutschman dh	4	0	0	0	1	1	.251
Henderson ss	5	1	0	0	0	3	.219
Ward lf	4	1	0	0	1	1	.253
Alonso 1b	3	1	0	0	2	1	.248
Basallo c	3	0	0	0	1	3	.242
Beavers rf	3	0	2	1	0	0	.237
O'Neill ph-rf	2	0	1	1	0	1	.199
Cowser cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.212
Mayo ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.193
Taveras cf	1	1	1	1	0	0	.239
Encarnacion-Strand 3b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.200
Holliday 2b	2	0	0	0	1	2	.211
Jackson ph-2b	0	0	0	1	0	0	.252
Totals	**36**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**6**	**15**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	2	0	1	0	0	1	.295
Allen ss	2	0	1	1	0	1	.247
Alvarez dh	4	0	1	1	1	1	.320
Paredes 3b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.254
Altuve 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.231
Walker 1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Wade ph-1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.222
Diaz c	5	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Smith rf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.212
Dezenzo lf	5	1	2	0	0	2	.242
Spence cf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.429
Totals	**41**	**2**	**9**	**2**	**2**	**10**	

Baltimore	**000 100 000 12 —**	**4**	**5**	**2**
Houston	**000 000 100 10 —**	**2**	**9**	**0**

E: Encarnacion-Strand (1), Henderson (11). **LOB:** Baltimore 9, Houston 11. **2B:** Beavers (10), Alvarez (19). **RBIs:** Beavers (14), Jackson (36), O'Neill (13), Taveras (35), Allen (10), Alvarez (72). **SB:** Alonso (3). **S:** Jackson, Allen **RISP:** Baltimore 4 for 15; Houston 2 for 12. Baltimore 2 (Henderson, Alonso; O'Neill, Basallo, O'Neill); Houston 1 (Allen, Wade).

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rogers	6.1	7	1	1	1	8	99	4.28
Garcia, BS, 4-6	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	9	2.57
Cano	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.25
Wells	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	2.89
Kittredge, W, 1-1	1.0	2	1	0	0	0	10	4.00
Sanders, S, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	7.36

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti	5.0	1	1	1	4	6	85	4.34
Blubaugh	2.0	1	0	0	1	3	40	3.63
Abreu	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5.62
Hader	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	13	1.10
Okert	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	14	2.22
De Los Santos, L, 0-3	1.0	2	2	1	1	2	25	4.34

T: 3:26. **A:** 31,649 (41,000).

Red Sox 7, Rays 6

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	3	0	1	1	2	0	.315
Mullins pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.201
DeLuca cf	5	1	2	1	0	1	.258
Caminero 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.281
Vilade 1b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.257
Aranda ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.290
Simpson lf	4	2	2	0	0	1	.279
Williamson ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.244
Mesa rf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.215
Fortes c	4	0	1	1	0	2	.254
Palacios 2b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.239
Walls pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.216
Totals	**35**	**6**	**10**	**4**	**3**	**7**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.256
Rafaela cf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.279
Abreu rf	3	2	2	3	1	0	.266
Contreras 1b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.283
Gonzalez dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Durbin 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Monasterio ss	3	2	2	0	1	0	.238
Jones lf	1	1	1	2	0	0	.144
Duran ph-lf	3	1	0	0	0	1	.191
Narváez c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.200
Yoshida ph	1	0	0	1	0	0	.267
Wong c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.283
Totals	**30**	**7**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**8**	

Tampa Bay	**020 300 100 —**	**6**	**10**	**1**
Boston	**021 000 40x —**	**7**	**6**	**2**

E: Vilade (1), Seigler (3), Narváez (4). **LOB:** Tampa Bay 5, Boston 4. **2B:** Vilade (7), Simpson (9), Palacios (8), DeLuca (14), Monasterio 2 (14), Rafaela (25). **HR:** Mesa (6), off Sandoval; DeLuca (6), off Watson; Jones (3), off Seymour; Abreu (14), off Seymour; Abreu (15), off Cleavinger. **RBIs:** Fortes (20), Mesa (13), Díaz (56), DeLuca (28), Jones 2 (9), Abreu 3 (49), Yoshida (18), Rafaela (41). **SB:** Gonzalez (1), Walls 2 (15), Mullins (15). **CS:** Gonzalez (1). **RISP:** Tampa Bay 3 for 6; Boston 2 for 6.. **DP:** Boston 1 (Durbin, Seigler, Contreras).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Seymour	3.0	2	3	3	2	4	61	4.79
Kelly	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	29	2.33
Legumina, H, 6	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	15	4.02
Sulser, H, 10	0.2	1	2	0	0	1	15	5.31
Cleavinger, L, 2-3, BS, 2-5	0.1	1	1	1	1	0	18	3.86
Booser	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	1.42

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sandoval	5.0	9	5	4	1	5	76	4.82
Watson, W, 1-0	2.0	1	1	1	0	2	23	4.62
Whitlock, H, 18	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.06
Chapman, S, 21-23	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	20	2.05

T: 2:44. **A:** 33,077 (37,755).

Cubs 6, Twins 2

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Martin rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Roden ph-rf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.235
Jeffers dh	3	0	1	0	1	0	.292
Bell 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Caratini c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Lee 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.249
Clemens 2b	4	2	2	2	0	2	.243
Kreidler ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.254
Keaschall cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.263
Larnach lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Totals	**32**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**1**	**7**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	5	0	0	0	0	3	.284
Suzuki rf	4	1	2	0	1	1	.272
Busch 1b	4	2	1	1	1	3	.239
Bregman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Happ lf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.219
Hoerner 2b	4	1	4	1	0	0	.243
Ramirez dh	3	0	2	2	1	0	.267
Swanson ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.209
Amaya c	4	0	1	2	0	1	.230
Totals	**35**	**6**	**11**	**6**	**4**	**11**	

Minnesota	**010 000 100 —**	**2**	**8**	**0**
Chicago	**122 000 10x —**	**6**	**11**	**0**

a-singled for Martin in the 8th. **LOB:** Minnesota 4, Chicago 9. **2B:** Amaya (8), Ramirez (4). **3B:** Swanson (3). **HR:** Clemens (17), off Boyd; Clemens (18), off Thielbar; Busch (12), off Bradley. **RBIs:** Clemens 2 (48), Busch (51), Amaya 2 (15), Hoerner (39), Ramirez 2 (9). **SB:** Swanson (13). **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 2 (Bell, Clemens); Chicago 5 (Crow-Armstrong, Swanson 3, Suzuki). **RISP:** Minnesota 1 for 4; Chicago 4 for 11. **Runners moved up:** Larnach. **GIDP:** Bell. **DP:** Chicago 2 (Bregman, Hoerner, Busch; Bregman, Amaya, Hoerner, Busch, Bregman, Crow-Armstrong, Busch).

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradley, L, 9-4	5.0	7	5	5	3	6	94	3.85
Paredes	2.0	3	1	1	1	4	40	4.60
Rojas	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	2.79

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Boyd, W, 6-1	6.0	3	1	1	1	4	91	4.15
Thielbar	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	15	4.40
Thornton	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	10	2.40
Webb	1.0	3	0	0	0	1	17	2.98

T: 2:38. **A:** 39,508 (41,363).

Mariners 4, Giants 3, 10 inn.

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b	4	0	1	0	1	0	.327
Eldridge dh	4	0	2	0	1	0	.274
Schmitt 3b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.279
Devers 1b	5	1	1	1	0	3	.245
Ramos lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.277
McCray pr-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Lee rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.304
Adames ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	.230
D.Gilbert cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.232
Susac c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.252
Koss pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.105
Cavanaugh c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Totals	**37**	**3**	**7**	**2**	**3**	**12**	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford 3b	3	0	0	0	2	0	.214
Rodríguez dh	4	0	0	1	0	2	.256
Canzone rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.261
Arozarena lf	2	1	0	0	0	1	.281
Naylor 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.251
Raleigh c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.165
Young 2b	4	1	2	3	0	0	.254
Raley cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.227
Garver ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.182
Robles cf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.210
Emerson ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.193
Totals	**30**	**4**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**8**	

San Francisco	**001 002 000 0 —**	**3**	**7**	**1**
Seattle	**000 000 300 1 —**	**4**	**3**	**1**

Two outs when winning run scored. a-struck out for Raley in the 9th. 1-ran for Ramos in the 8th. 2-ran for Susac in the 10th. **E:** Arraez (5), Raley (1). **LOB:** San Francisco 8, Seattle 6. **HR:** Devers (20), off Woo; Adames (17), off Woo; Young (12), off Webb. **RBIs:** Devers (53), Adames (42), Young 3 (46), Rodríguez (41). **CS:** Raley (2). **SF:** Rodríguez. **S:** Emerson. **RISP:** San Francisco 1 for 7; Seattle 1 for 3.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Webb	6.2	2	3	3	1	5	100	3.87
Hentges	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	17	1.93
Winn	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.06
E.Miller	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	3.18
Smith, L, 0-2	0.2	0	1	0	1	0	10	3.38

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woo	6.0	6	3	2	2	7	98	4.16
Speier	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.13
Bazardo	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	17	2.34
Muñoz	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	9	4.08
Ferrer, W, 3-1	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	16	2.85

T: 3:02. **A:** 43,485 (47,929).

Rockies 10, Reds 3

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.282
Stewart 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Bleday lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.243
Steer 1b-2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Suárez dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.210
Marte rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.197
Myers cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.248
Trevino c	4	2	3	2	0	0	.268
Arroyo 2b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.236
Lowe ph-1b	2	0	1	1	0	0	.250
Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**1**	**6**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy lf-cf	5	2	2	2	0	0	.303
Moniak dh	5	1	2	2	0	1	.276
Carrigg cf	4	3	2	1	1	0	.288
Fulford lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.193
Rumfield 1b	5	1	4	4	0	1	.302
Castro 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.264
Johnston rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.297
Julien 2b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.223
Sullivan c	4	1	1	0	0	2	.222
Tovar ss	3	1	1	0	1	1	.199
Totals	**37**	**10**	**14**	**10**	**3**	**8**	

Cincinnati	**001 010 100 —**	**3**	**9**	**0**
Colorado	**242 002 00x —**	**10**	**14**	**0**

LOB: Cincinnati 6, Colorado 6. **2B:** Marte (6), Steer (14), McCarthy (19), Carrigg (7), Julien (8). **3B:** De La Cruz (4), Sullivan (1). **HR:** Trevino 2 (3), off Sugano; Rumfield (13), off Ferguson. **RBIs:** Trevino 2 (10), Lowe (27), Carrigg (23), Rumfield 4 (51), McCarthy 2 (55), Moniak 2 (40), Castro (39). **SB:** McCarthy (17), Marte (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 3 (Suárez, De La Cruz, Stewart); Colorado 3 (Johnston 2, McCarthy). **RISP:** Cincinnati 1 for 5; Colorado 8 for 14. **DP:** Cincinnati 1 (Steer, De La Cruz, Steer); Colorado 1 (Tovar, Julien, Rumfield).

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lowder, L, 3-7	2.1	11	8	8	0	2	48	5.75
Garcia	2.2	2	0	0	0	2	32	2.77
Ferguson	1.0	1	2	2	1	2	18	3.20
Moll	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	20	4.08
Johnson	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	4.08

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sugano, W, 9-4	6.1	6	3	3	0	3	77	4.76
Mejia	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	16	5.65
Bernardino	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	17	2.90
Agnos	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	9	6.37

. **T:** 2:24. **A:** 31,585 (50,144).

Rangers 7, Braves 6

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	4	3	2	1	0	1	.239
Foscue ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.282
Langford lf	5	1	2	1	0	2	.274
Jung 3b	5	0	2	0	0	0	.296
Nimmo rf	5	0	2	3	0	2	.266
Burger 1b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.236
Duran ss	3	1	1	0	2	1	.268
Carter cf	4	1	2	2	1	1	.193
Lopez 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.301
Higashioka c	2	1	0	0	1	0	.217
Totals	**38**	**7**	**12**	**7**	**4**	**9**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin dh-c	5	0	2	1	0	0	.264
Albies 2b	4	0	0	1	0	0	.267
Olson 1b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.266
Harris cf	5	2	2	1	0	0	.299
Dubón lf	4	1	2	1	0	2	.270
White rf	4	1	1	2	0	2	.227
Riley 3b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.211
Bart c	1	0	0	0	1	0	.211
Smith ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Iglesias p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Jarvis ss	3	1	1	0	0	1	.316
Totals	**35**	**6**	**9**	**6**	**1**	**9**	

Texas	**102 004 000 —**	**7**	**12**	**0**
Atlanta	**041 000 100 —**	**6**	**9**	**2**

E: Dubón (4), Fuentes (1). **LOB:** Texas 10, Atlanta 7. **2B:** Duran (16), Dubón (20). **HR:** Pederson (16), off Murphy; Carter (8), off Kinley; White (5), off Gore; Harris (17), off Gore. **RBIs:** Pederson (35), Langford (23), Nimmo 3 (37), Carter 2 (24), White 2 (17), Baldwin (52), Albies (53), Harris (57), Dubón (53). **SF:** Albies. **S:** Lopez. **RISP:** Texas 6 for 12; Atlanta 1 for 4. **GIDP:** Lopez, Foscue. **DP:** Atlanta 2 (Albies, Jarvis, Olson; Jarvis, Albies, Olson).

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gore, W, 6-8	5.2	6	5	5	1	7	87	4.80
Ahlstrom, H, 4	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6.91
Alexander, H, 8	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	14	2.38
Junis, H, 12	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	14	2.75
Latz, S, 19-21	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	15	1.57

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Murphy	2.2	5	3	2	2	2	49	4.05
Dodd	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	19	2.28
Ritchie, H, 2	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	22	4.29
Kinley, L, 5-4, BS, 0-4	0.1	2	3	3	1	0	16	4.24
Lee	0.2	3	1	1	0	1	18	1.65
Young	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	19	3.60
Fuentes	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	2.58
Iglesias	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	2.16

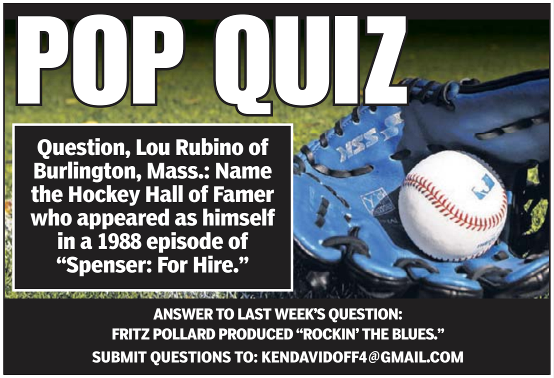
T: 2:52. **A:** 37,056 (41,149).

NASCAR

NASCAR Cup Series Schedule-Winners

April 26 — Jack Link's 500 (Carson Hocevar)
May 3 — Würth 400 presented by LIQUI MOLY (Chase Elliott)
May 10 — Go Bowling at The Glen (Shane Van Gisbergen)
May 17 — NASCAR All-Star Race (Denny Hamlin)
May 24 — Coca-Cola 600 (Daniel Suárez)
May 31 — Cracker Barrel 400 (Denny Hamlin)
June 7 — FireKeepers Casino 400 (Denny Hamlin)
June 14 — Great American Getaway 400 presented by VISITPA (Denny Hamlin)
June 21 — Anduril 250 (Corey Heim)
June 28 — Toyota / Save Mart 350 (Shane Van Gisbergen)
July 5 — eero 400 (Chase Briscoe)
July 12 — Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart (Ryan Blaney)
July 19 — Window World 450, North Wilkesboro, N.C.
July 26 — Brickyard 400, Speedway, Ind.
Aug. 9 — Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol, Newton, Iowa
Aug. 15 — Cook Out 400, Richmond, Va.
Aug. 23 — Dollar Tree 301, Loudon, N.H.
Aug. 29 — Coke Zero Sugar 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Sept. 6 — Cook Out Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.
Sept. 13 — Enjoy Illinois 300, Madison, Ill.
Sept. 19 — Bass Pro Shops Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.
Sept. 27 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 4 — South Point 400, Las Vegas
Oct. 11 — Bank of America 400, Concord, N.C.
Oct. 18 — Freeway Insurance 500, Avondale, Ariz.
Oct. 25 — Yellawood 500, Talladega, Ala.
Nov. 1 — Xfinity 500, Ridgeway, Va.
Nov. 8 — NASCAR Cup Series Championship Race, Homestead, Fla.

POP QUIZ



Question, Lou Rubino of Burlington, Mass.: Name the Hockey Hall of Famer who appeared as himself in a 1988 episode of “Spenser: For Hire.”

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK’S QUESTION:
FRITZ POLLARD PRODUCED “ROCKIN’ THE BLUES.”
SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: KENDAVIDOFF4@GMAIL.COM

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	11	1	3	36	32	11
Inter Miami CF	9	2	4	31	39	28
Chicago	8	4	2	26	27	16
New England	8	5	1	25	22	18
Red Bulls	6	5	4	22	25	32
Charlotte FC	6	6	3	21	24	23
Cincinnati	5	5	5	20	36	37
NYCFC	5	6	4	19	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	6	18	21	25
Columbus	4	7	4	16	21	23
CF Montréal	4	8	3	15	22	31
Toronto FC	3	6	6	15	22	29
Orlando City	4	9	2	14	23	44
Atlanta	3	10	2	11	14	24
Philadelphia	1	10	4	7	18	30

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	2	2	32	34	12
San Jose	10	3	2	32	34	15
Los Angeles FC	8	5	3	27	27	17
Real Salt Lake	8	4	2	26	26	19
FC Dallas	7	4	4	25	30	22
Seattle FC	7	4	3	24	18	16
Houston	7	6	1	22	19	23
Minn. United	6	5	4	22	18	22
LA Galaxy	5	6	5	20	22	25
St Louis City	5	6	4	19	19	22
Portland	5	8	2	17	27	29
San Diego FC	4	6	5	17	30	27
Colorado	5	9	1	16	25	24
Austin FC	3	7	5	14	19	31
Sporting K.C.	3	10	2	11	16	39

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Friday
Nashville 1, Atlanta 0
Los Angeles FC 3, LA Galaxy 0

Wednesday
NYCFC at Columbus, 7:30pm
Red Bulls at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Vancouver at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Chicago at Miami, 7:30pm
Toronto FC at New England, 7:30pm
Atlanta at Charlotte FC, 8:15pm
Seattle FC at Austin FC, 8:30pm
D.C. United at Houston, 8:30pm
Minnesota at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm
CF Montréal at Nashville, 8:30pm
San Diego FC at Colorado, 9:30pm
St Louis City at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
FC Dallas at Portland, 10:30pm
Orlando City at San Jose, 10:30pm

Saturday, July 25
Charlotte FC at **Red Bulls**, 6:30pm
Chicago at **NYCFC**, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Columbus, 7pm
Toronto FC at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Miami at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Atlanta at New England, 7:30pm
Nashville at Orlando City, 7:30pm
Seattle FC at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Austin FC at Houston, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Colorado at St Louis City, 8:30pm
FC Dallas at San Diego FC, 9:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
Salt Lake at Portland, 10:30pm
LA Galaxy at San Jose, 10:30pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	**9**	**3**	**3**	**30**	**19**	**10**
San Diego	9	5	2	29	23	17
Washington	8	3	3	27	22	11
Portland	8	5	3	27	25	18
Utah Royals FC	8	4	3	27	22	16
Kansas City	8	6	1	25	23	22
Angel City	7	6	1	22	22	14
North Carolina	6	5	3	21	20	19
Orlando	6	8	2	20	21	21
Denver Summit FC	5	5	4	19	21	19
Bay FC	5	6	3	18	16	19
Seattle	5	7	2	17	15	19
Boston Legacy FC	4	7	4	16	16	21
Houston	4	7	4	16	18	24
Chicago	4	11	0	12	8	30
Louisville	2	10	2	8	16	27

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday
Gotham FC 3, Seattle 2
Denver Summit FC 2, Portland 1
Bay FC 3, North Carolina 0
Angel City 2, Chicago 0
Utah Royals FC 1, Orlando 0
Houston 1, Louisville 1, tie

Sunday
Washington at Boston Legacy FC, 7pm

Friday
Bay FC at Houston, 8pm
Chicago at Orlando, 8pm
Gotham FC at Portland, 10pm

Saturday, July 25
Kansas City at Boston Legacy FC, 5pm
Utah Royals FC at North Carolina, 7:45pm

Sunday, July 26
Seattle at San Diego, 5pm
Denver Summit FC at Washington, 7pm
Louisville at Angel City, 9pm

Wednesday, July 29
Louisville at Kansas City, 8pm
Washington at Utah Royals FC, 9pm
Gotham FC at Bay FC, 10pm

FIFA World Cup

Third Place Playoff Game
Saturday
England 6, France 4
FINAL
Sunday
Spain vs. Argentina, 3pm

NBA Summer League Schedule

Saturday
Orlando 103, Boston 97
Milwaukee 96, Philadelphia 94
Memphis 101, Houston 90
Washington 91, Atlanta 83
Golden State 92, L.A. Lakers 88
Indiana 91, New Orleans 73
San Antonio 86, Phoenix 81
Sunday - Summer League Consolation
Nets vs. Oklahoma City, 4:30pm
Denver vs. Toronto, 6:30pm
Sunday - Summer League Final
Golden State vs. Memphis, 9pm

★
★

The POST Line

MLB
Sunday
American League

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
White Sox	-103-117	BLUE JAYS
RED SOX	$103-125	Rays
ASTROS	-100-120	Orioles
Tigers	$130-157	ANGELS

National League

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Mets	$108-130	PHILLIES
BREWERS	$109-131	Marlins
Reds	$117-141	ROCKIES
D'BACKS	-100-120	Cardinals

Interleague

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Rangers	$104-122	BRAVES
Pirates	$109-131	GUARDIANS
ROYALS	$104-125	Padres
CUBS	$142-172	Twins
Nationals	-113-136	ATHLETICS
MARINERS	$143-173	Giants
Dodgers Gm. 1	-105-115	**YANKEES**
Dodgers Gm.2	-104-112	**YANKEES**

Home team in CAPS

WNBA
Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
WINGS	9.5 (180.5)	Sparks
DREAM	9.5 (177.5)	Sky

FIFA World Cup
Sunday- Final

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Spain	$130-150	Argentina

game held in East Rutherford, N.J.

NFL
Wed. Sept. 9

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
SEAHAWKS	3.5 (44.5)	Patriots
	Thur. Sept. 10	
RAMS	3 (48.5)	49ers
	Sun. Sept. 13	
Cowboys	2.5 (48.5)	**GIANTS**
TITANS	3 (39.5)	**Jets**
LIONS	7 (48.5)	Saints
JAGUARS	7.5 (40.5)	Browns
Bears	2.5 (44.5)	PANTHERS
Bills	1.5 (45.5)	TEXANS
Ravens	3.5 (49.5)	COLTS
BENGALS	3.5 (50.5)	Buccaneers
STEELERS	3 (42.5)	Falcons
CHARGERS	11.5 (45.5)	Cardinals
EAGLES	5.5 (46.5)	Commanders
RAIDERS	3 (41.5)	Dolphins
Packers	1.5 (44.5)	VIKINGS
	Monday	
CHIEFS	2.5 (42.5)	Broncos

Home Teams In CAPS

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Sawx win 12th straight

Wilyer Abreu hit two home runs — the second a go-ahead, two-run shot in the seventh inning that gave him four homers in two games — and the Red Sox rallied for a 7-6 victory over the Rays in Boston to extend their winning streak to 12 games. Abreu also hit two in the nightcap of a doubleheader sweep Friday.

● Rookie All-Star **Travis Bazzana** hit a two-run homer to center field in the ninth inning for his first career walk-off hit, and the Guardians rallied for a 5-3 victory over the Pirates to split a doubleheader in Cleveland. The Pirates won the first game 7-1.

● In Milwaukee, **Jackson Chourio** put Milwaukee ahead with a two-run single in a four-run sixth inning that sent the Brewers past the skidding Marlins 8-6.

● In Toronto, **Shane Bieber** and three relievers combined on a four-hitter, **Vladimir Guerrero Jr.** reached base three times and the Blue Jays beat the White Sox 1-0 to snap Chicago's four-game winning streak.

● In Houston, **Gunnar Henderson** scored the tiebreaking run from second base on **Tyler O'Neill**'s infield single with two outs in the 11th inning, and the Orioles beat the Astros 4-2 for their sixth straight victory.

NHL: Hawks lock up star Bedard

Blackhawks star **Connor Bedard** has agreed to a $75 million, five-year contract, the team announced. Bedard, who turned 21 on Friday, had been a restricted free agent. There is a full no-movement clause in the final year of the deal.

WNBA: Brondello banned 1 game

Toronto Tempo coach **Sandy Brondello** was suspended for one game by the WNBA for an inappropriate comment she used in reference to **Angel Reese** during a loss to the Dream on Friday. The ex-Liberty coach will miss Monday's game against the Aces.

The broadcast picked up the coach addressing officials after Toronto's **Nyara Sabally** went down with an injury following contact with Reese. Sabally was called for the foul, and Brondello could be heard saying Reese was a "protected species."

"Angel, I'm sorry," Brondello said in an apology posted to social media. "Last night, in the emotion of the moment after Nyara's injury, I used a phrase that I shouldn't have used, and I take full responsibility for that. My frustration was with the officiating, but my words unfairly put the focus on you."

ETC.: Men's mile mark broken

Josh Kerr, the British runner who helped stoke a revival in middle-distance drama on the track, added a new chapter Saturday in London by running the mile in 3 minutes, 42.66 seconds to break the 27-year-old world record for the distance.

● In Le Markstein, France, **Tadej Pogacar** launched a trademark attack on the last climb of the day to win the 14th stage of the Tour de France and extend his commanding lead as he chases a fifth title.

● **Todd Clements** held on to the lead in the windy Corales Puntacana Championship in a bid for a wire-to-wire victory, with **Ben James** two strokes back.

TOP PLAY

McLean is Phillies' bane

By MIKE TURAY

The MLB season is back on track after the All-Star break, as the Mets and Juan Soto close out a three-game series Sunday against the Phillies.

Soto and the Amazin's unexpectedly took the series opener Thursday, fueled by two home runs from Francisco Alvarez.

The Mets will send Nolan McLean (6-6, 3.52 ERA) to the mound, while Philadelphia counters with reliever Alan Rangel (0-2, 4.19 ERA) as an opener.

This is encouraging for the Mets hitters, considering Rangel had a tough time in his last game versus the Amazin's on June 27. After entering the game in the bottom of the sixth inning with a two-run lead, he allowed a walk, two hits and two runs. The Phillies eventually lost 4-2 despite taking an early lead.

Soto enters Sunday's game ranked among the leaders for expected batting average (xBA) and expected weighted on-base average (xWBA). Given his hitting ability and impact at the plate, lean on the Mets moneyline for the first five innings.

An unsung hero who has impressed in several starts also provides additional support to this angle. McLean has performed well in individual matchups this season against the Phillies' top hitters. He struck out Bryce Harper three times in six at-bats, allowing only one hit, and Kyle Schwarber has a below-average .167 OBP against the rookie right-hander.

THE PLAY: Mets First five innings moneyline (-156, FanDuel Sportsbook)

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'26 vs OPP		CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA		W-L	IP	ERA
Mets	McLean (R)	—	6-6	3.52	8-11	0-0	0.00	1-1	2-1	18.0	1.00
Phillies	Rangel (R)	(1:35pm)	0-2	4.19	0-2	0-1	9.00	0-1	0-1	7.1	3.68
Dodgers	Yamamoto (R)	—	9-6	2.85	11-6	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-1	19.0	3.79
Yankees Gm.1	Schlittler (R)	(12:35pm)	9-5	2.05	14-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	18.2	4.34
Dodgers	TBD		0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.0	0.00
Yankees Gm. 2	TBD	(7:20pm)	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.0	0.00
Rangers	Eovaldi (R)	—	9-7	4.04	11-7	0-0	0.00	4-4	2-0	18.0	3.00
Braves	Holmes (R)	(1:35pm)	5-4	3.61	11-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	14.2	1.26
Pirates	Skenes (R)	—	8-8	3.57	8-12	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-1	15.1	6.46
Guardians	Bibee (R)	(1:40pm)	3-9	3.90	6-14	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	17.2	4.58
Padres	Márquez (R)	—	4-2	5.18	6-2	0-0	0.00	1-1	1-1	14.0	6.43
Royals	Cameron (L)	(2:10pm)	5-7	4.89	5-13	0-0	0.00	0-1	1-2	15.2	6.89
Twins	Matthews (R)	—	4-6	4.57	5-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	17.2	4.58
Cubs	Imanaga (L)	(2:20pm)	5-8	4.17	8-11	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-2	16.0	2.81
Nationals	Griffin (L)	—	10-2	2.77	15-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	19.0	0.95
Athletics	Lopez (L)	(4:05pm)	4-3	6.83	5-6	0-0	0.00	1-0	0-1	7.1	13.94
Giants	Ray (L)	—	8-6	3.38	11-7	1-0	1.50	2-1	2-0	19.0	1.89
Mariners	Gilbert (R)	(4:10pm)	7-6	3.32	11-8	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-2	21.0	3.43
White Sox	Burke (R)	—	6-4	3.41	7-8	0-0	1.50	0-1	1-0	18.1	1.96
Blue Jays	Yesavage (R)	(12:15pm)	4-4	3.72	6-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	14.1	4.40
Rays	McClanahan (L)	—	8-5	2.83	10-7	0-0	0.00	5-1	2-1	18.1	0.98
Red Sox	Gray (R)	(1:35pm)	11-1	2.54	13-4	1-0	5.40	6-6	2-0	19.1	0.93
Orioles	Bradish (R)	—	6-9	3.61	9-10	0-0	0.00	2-0	1-2	18.1	3.44
Astros	Brown (R)	(2:10pm)	1-0	3.57	4-3	0-0	0.00	0-2	0-0	16.0	6.19
Tigers	Mize (R)	—	4-6	2.79	5-9	0-0	0.00	3-0	2-1	19.1	2.33
Angels	Johnson (R)	(4:07pm)	1-4	6.75	1-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	14.0	3.86
Marlins	Pérez (R)	—	5-7	3.78	8-8	1-0	0.00	1-1	2-1	18.1	1.47
Brewers	Gasser (L)	(2:10pm)	2-4	5.24	4-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	16.1	6.61
Reds	Greene (R)	—	1-1	6.97	1-1	1-0	4.50	2-1	1-1	16.1	5.51
Rockies	Feltner (R)	(3:10pm)	3-3	4.55	6-7	0-0	0.00	0-2	1-1	16.1	3.86
Cardinals	Pallante (R)	—	10-6	3.96	11-7	1-0	1.50	2-1	1-2	17.1	5.71
D'backs	Rodriguez (L)	(4:10pm)	8-3	2.29	14-5	0-0	0.00	1-0	2-1	19.0	2.37

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Let's Go Mets! Rollin' with Nolan

"I know nothing about World Cup soccer other than you can take a two-hour nap right after it starts and still get up to see the end, having missed nothing."

Enjoy the game, Don Reed.

Can the Mets beat the Phillies twice for us? Too much to ask? Maybe. But Nolan McLean has allowed just two runs over his last 18 innings and has struck out 19 victims. Philly counters with Alan Rangel, who is 0-2, after giving up three runs over 3 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings at Cincinnati. Play $50 on McLean and the Mets.

-$

This game was over faster than you can say "Hey, isn't that Anthony Rizzo?"

Chicago's Michael Busch hit a first-inning homer that somehow ended up in the hands of former Cub Anthony Rizzo while he was holding his child in his left hand out in right field. Nico Hoerner went 4-for-4, Matthew Boyd is 6-1 after allowing one run over six innings and the Cubs pinned the Twins 6-2. Fly the W! Our modest three-game winning streak has us at -116 joeyamalfitanos.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 19	MON July 20	TUE July 21	WED July 22	THU July 23
	Dodgers Gm 1: 12:35, YES Gm 2: 7:20 NBC/Peacock 660 AM, 101.9 FM	Pittsburgh 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Pittsburgh 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Pittsburgh 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME
	Philadelphia 1:35 SNY 880 AM	Milwaukee 7:40 SNY 880 AM	Milwaukee 7:40 SNY 880 AM	Milwaukee 2:10 SNY 880 AM	NO GAME
	NO GAME	Dallas 8:00 My9	NO GAME	Chicago 7:00 Fox 5	NO GAME

Wednesday	Wednesday	Friday
Philadelphia Union 7:30 Apple TV	Columbus Crew 7:30 Apple TV	Portland Thorns 10:00 Prime Video

Today's Sports on the Air

MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP		
3 p.m.	Final: Argentina vs. Spain	Fox, Telemundo
MLB BASEBALL		
Noon	White Sox at Blue Jays	Peacock
1:35 p.m.	Mets at Phillies	SNY, 880 AM
12:35 p.m.	Dodgers at Yankees	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
4 p.m.	Cardinals at Diamondbacks	MLBN
7:20 p.m.	Dodgers at Yankees	NBC, Peacock, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
WNBA BASKETBALL		
1 p.m.	Sparks at Wings	ABC
4 p.m.	Sky at Dream	CBS
7 p.m.	Sun at Mercury	ESPN
NBA BASKETBALL: SUMMER LEAGUE		
4:30 p.m.	Consolation Game: Nets vs. Thunder	ESPN
6:30 p.m.	Consolation Game: Nuggets vs. Raptors	ESPN2
9 p.m.	Championship: TBD	ESPN
GOLF		
6 a.m.	DP World/PGA Tour: The Open Championship, Final Round	USA
7 a.m.	DP World/PGA Tour: The Open Championship, Final Round	NBC
4 p.m.	DP World/PGA Tour: Corales Puntacana Champ., Final Round	Golf
BASKETBALL		
2 p.m.	BIG 3: Week 5	CBS
CFL FOOTBALL		
7 p.m.	Winnipeg Blue Bombers at Ottawa Redblacks	CBSSN
AUTO RACING		
9 a.m.	Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix	Apple TV
Noon	FIM Motocross World Championship: MXGP	CBSSN
1 p.m.	INDY NXT Series: Music City Grand Prix	FS1
5:30 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Borchetta Bourbon Music City Grand Prix	Fox
7 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Window World 450, In-Season Challenge - Rd. 4	TNT
MEN'S LACROSSE		
3 p.m.	PLL: New York vs. Boston	ABC
SOFTBALL		
Noon	Athletes Unlimited: Spark at Blaze	ESPN2
8 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Talons at Bandits	MLBN
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	ATP Bastad: Finals	Tennis
6 a.m.	ATP Gstaad: Finals	Tennis
6 a.m.	ATP Umag: Finals	Tennis
6 a.m.	WTA Athens: Finals	Tennis
6 a.m.	WTA Iasi: Finals	Tennis
HORSE RACING		
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
2 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
4:30 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
BEACH VOLLEYBALL		
1 p.m.	AVP: League Week 6	CBS
2 p.m.	AVP: League Week 6	CBSSN
GYMNASTICS		
4 p.m.	USGA: U.S. Classic	NBC
CYCLING		
6:30 p.m.	UCI: Tour de France, Stage 15	NBCSN

ODDS & ENDS

WORLD CUP
Championship game
Sunday
Spain vs. Argentina

3-WAY BETTING (90 minutes plus stoppage time)	ODDS
Spain	+125
Draw	+200
Argentina	+250

TOTAL GOALS (including extra time)	ODDS
Over 2.5	+125
Under 2.5	-160

ANYTIME GOAL (including extra time)	ODDS
Mikel Oyarzabal	+155
Lionel Messi	+155
Ferran Torres	+240
Lamine Yamal	+250
Lautaro Martinez	+260
Julian Alvarez	+280
Jose Lopez	+300
Nico Williams	+333
Victor Munoz	+360
Dani Olmo	+380
Mikel Merino	+400
Alex Baena	+425
Nico Paz	+425
Thiago Almada	+500
Giuliano Simeone	+525
Giovani Lo Celso	+575
Nicolas Gonzalez	+575
Gavi	+600
Fabian Ruiz	+600
Enzo Fernandez	+625
Alexis Mac Allister	+725
Valentin Barco	+750
Pedri	+775
Martin Zubimendi	+800
Rodri	+825
Leandro Paredes	+825

BOTH TEAMS SCORE (including extra time)	ODDS
Yes	-110
No	-118

NASCAR
Favorites to win
Window World 450

DRIVER	ODDS
Christopher Bell	+250
Denny Hamlin	+375
Ryan Blaney	+475
Kyle Larson	+725
Chase Elliott	+900
Joey Logano	11/1
William Byron	12/1
Tyler Reddick	14/1
Ty Gibbs	15/1
Chase Briscoe	16/1
Bubba Wallace	30/1
Carson Hocevar	30/1
Alex Bowman	40/1
Chris Buescher	40/1
Ross Chastain	40/1
Ryan Preece	40/1
Austin Cindric	50/1
Brad Keselowski	60/1

BET SMART

Argentina's luck will run out today

By MICHAEL LEBOFF

There are plenty of cultural similarities between Spain and Argentina, but on the soccer field, they play entirely different genres.

Spain is a symphony: 11 players performing in perfect harmony under conductor Luis de la Fuente.

Argentina is heavy metal. They're loud and chaotic, and certainly not everybody's cup of tea, but there is no denying their energy. Especially when Lionel Messi steps to the front of the stage.

Both acts reached the World Cup final, but they took very different routes to get here.

Though Spain was busy poetically dismantling tournament-favorite France in what was easily the most impressive performance of the World Cup, Argentina turned their tilt with England into a back-alley brawl. They set the tone early when Leandro Paredes clattered into English star Jude Bellingham in the second minute of the match.

It was the first of 19 fouls in the first 30 minutes of the match, and it unsettled England.

From there, Argentina didn't pass up a chance to run through an English player. And when the time came for the defending champions to actually play, they did it with aplomb. Argentina had 88 percent of the possession after they fell behind 1-0 in the 55th minute, and a couple of moments of magic from Messi and his henchmen were enough to score La Albiceleste another famous victory.

All four of Argentina's wins in the knockout stage have been dramatic. They needed extra time to oust Cape Verde and Switzerland, and in between those matches they dispatched Egypt in a controversial two-goal comeback.

Some would suggest Argentina has been lucky and on the right side of plenty of 50/50 refereeing decisions. Others are calling them the most resilient team in World Cup history.

But that's beside the point for now. The important question for Sunday is whether La Albiceleste's blood-and-guts style will work against a Spanish side that rarely gets caught out of rhythm.

I have my doubts.

Though Argentina was terrific in the second half of their match with England, the Three Lions are far more susceptible to the dark arts than La Roja. England's midfield enjoys a scrap and were happy to engage with Messi's henchmen.

Spain's midfield, led by the inimitable Rodri, will be happy to dance around any lunging Argentinians and keep this match at a simmer. If it boils over, La Roja will give up any advantage they have in this tilt.

Of course, one way to ensure that Argentina can't spoil a contest is to keep the ball. No team is better at that than Spain, but this isn't your uncle's La Furia Roja that kills the tempo of the game with short, high-probability passes.

Under de la Fuente, Spain has been more willing to be direct and play the ball forward, which has kept defenses on their heels throughout the tournament.

Remarkably, Spain's willingness to play with more risk hasn't led to more goals against. They've conceded just one goal through their first seven matches, and they've allowed just 2.1 expected goals (xG) against.

Perhaps Messi can unlock Spain's impassable backline with a moment of magic, but it's hard to imagine that La Roja will fall victim to the same mistakes that England did in the semifinals.

Thomas Tuchel's Three Lions were incredibly conservative, and didn't put any pressure on Messi, allowing the best player ever to kick a soccer ball all day to pick them apart. Eventually, it cost them.

Spain's unflappable defense, which is anchored by 19-year-old Pau Cubarsí, is much better equipped to mute Messi's influence.

Argentina's game plan Sunday will be to create a blood-and-thunder show with old-school physical play and classic South American tactics. However, no team is better equipped to weather that storm than Spain.

Bet on Spain (-152, FanDuel) to end Messi's magical run Sunday.

Rodri
Getty Images

FEVER NIGHTMARE

Rested Liberty falter in disastrous third quarter

DEEM
INDIANA
22
Lilly
LIBERTY
23
Liberty Mutual
Wilson

NOTHING DOING: Marine Johannes launches a shot over the Fever's Caitlin Clark during Saturday night's game in Indianapolis. Despite having not played for six days, the Liberty suffered a 108-88 loss to a team playing the second game of a back-to-back. USA TODAY Network

By MADELINE KENNEY

INDIANAPOLIS — The Liberty have no excuse.

They hadn't played a game since Sunday after travel disruption caused Thursday's game in Dallas to be moved to Monday. They had extra practice, additional time to prepare and more meetings to get everyone on the same page.

Breanna Stewart thought they were ready.

Roughly 12 hours later, the Liberty showed they were not.

Earlier in the day, Stewart said Saturday night's game against the Fever was more about proving to themselves that the work is paying off than it was proving to others that the Liberty are a serious contender.

FEVER	**108**	**Boxscore Page 56**
LIBERTY	**88**	

New York's pride was on the line. But things unraveled for the Liberty and they never recovered, falling to the fatigued Fever 108-88.

Embarrassing. Disappointing. Frustrating. Demoralizing. Pick your adjective.

The Fever were already starting to head home by the time the Liberty walked into the visiting press conference room more than 30 minutes after the game wrapped.

Their late arrival came after a lengthy postgame address where the departing message was about "coming together and finding a way," Sabrina Ionescu said.

"Obviously, we're in a little bit of a rut," Ionescu said. "So I think it's just trying to keep brainstorming what works, what we need to get better on and how to make a good push before All-Star break."

The Liberty have lost eight of their last 10 games and are 13-12 with two games left before the break.

The Liberty led by four at halftime. The Fever — playing on the second night of a back-to-back with Caitlin Clark on a minutes restriction — outscored them 30-12 in the third quarter. Kelsey Mitchell had 14 of her 33 points in the quarter.

It was the same story, different game. The Liberty looked out of sorts. The chemistry seemed off. They weren't able to weather a momentum swing. They're asking too much of Stewart. It was never going to be sustainable.

New York committed 17 turnovers that resulted in 30 Fever points. Indiana converted its eight offensive boards into 18 points.

The Fever looked every bit like a team playing for the second time in 24 hours. And yet, the Liberty — who, again, hadn't played in six days — couldn't take advantage.

New York's third-quarter showing was pitiful.

The Liberty committed eight turnovers and eight fouls. They shot 5-for-13 from the field.

The Fever slowed New York way down, shaking the Liberty out of rhythm.

"It's more just about in the way that we're losing and it sometimes kind of feels like we're beating ourselves," Ionescu said. "It's a lot of stuff we can control. We're coming from ... blowing leads to then coming back after down three, it's a lot of stuff that we kind of dig ourselves into these holes and I think now it's trying to figure out why and how we can improve that and how we can get better."

The Liberty have taken some injury hits. They're without Leonie Fiebich, who has a left foot injury, and Satou Sabally, who missed her seventh game because of concussion protocol.

It's still no excuse for what transpired Saturday.

The Liberty started the game strong. They were raining 3s. Ionescu, Jonquel Jones and Stewart each drained one. Marine Johannes went a splashy 4-for-5 from deep in the first quarter.

The Liberty shot 7-for-9 from deep, but 2-for-10 inside the arc.

New York went 6-for-23 from beyond the arc in the final three quarters.

The Liberty's bench was expected to be the deepest in the league. But the Fever's reserves outscored New York's 31-14.

Betnijah Laney-Hamilton and Rebekah Gardner never left the Liberty's bench, despite how poorly things were going. New York needed something, anything, and never got it outside of Stewart.

"We're searching," coach Chris DeMarco said when asked about Laney-Hamilton and Gardner's benchings. "We wanted to see what [Marine] Fauthoux had tonight and [Anneli] Maley played well in the last game. We can't play everybody."

The Liberty wanted to end the first chapter of the season on a high note. Saturday wasn't a great start in that pursuit.

mkenney@nypost.com

Ionescu back to best self after early-season hiccup

LIBERTY NOTES

By MADELINE KENNEY

INDIANAPOLIS — About a month ago, Liberty star Sabrina Ionescu didn't look like herself.

She had struggled early in her return from injuries that sidelined her for most of the first five weeks of the season. She brushed off any notion that her sore back was still bothering her.

During a particularly tough night for Ionescu, coach Chris DeMarco made the decision to bench her for the final few minutes of a loss in Los Angeles.

All those concerns about Ionescu, though, are a distant memory. She entered Saturday enjoying the best four-game stretch of her season, averaging 21.0 points, 4.3 rebounds, 6.0 assists and 1.8 steals.

But Ionescu didn't care to talk about her own glowing performance as of late after Saturday's shootaround.

"I'm just worried about winning and finding ways to impact the team in positive ways," Ionescu said. "Some have translated to wins, others haven't."

The Liberty have dropped four straight games after Saturday's 108-88 loss to the Fever in which Ionescu scored 12 points. Ionescu described the past few weeks as a "rocky process." She knew she'd find her rhythm at some point.

But the inconsistent showings by the Liberty are somewhat concerning for a team with so much potential.

"We're really mature about it," Ionescu said. "It really hasn't been too frustrating. Every team goes through it. Everyone understands. ... During the process, kind of when you're in it, it sucks but I think everyone has a really good mindset of knowing it'll pay off for us in the long run."

➤ Women's National Basketball Players Association leaders are scheduled to meet with the league, including commissioner **Cathy Engelbert**, next week to address the increasing online harassment players have been experiencing in recent weeks.

WNBPA vice president **Breanna Stewart** said the union's executive committee has been invited to attend the meeting.

Stewart wasn't sure what exactly led to the meeting, but is "happy that it is" happening.

Nats 3B can boost your roster

THE THIRD base position in fantasy baseball has devolved into an absolute wasteland this season, leaving managers scrambling to fill a gaping void in their lineups. If you did not secure an elite anchor on draft day, you are staring at a black hole of offensive production that is tanking your team.

FANTASY ALARM

Howard Bender

The drop-off in talent is exceptionally steep, making it foolish to sit on your hands and hope Alec Bohm is going to somehow save you. In today's landscape, surviving the hot corner requires an aggressive approach and constant monitoring of the waiver wire.

If you check your league's waiver wire and find Nationals infielder Curtis Mead sitting out there unclaimed, you need to add him to your roster immediately. The young infielder has completely transformed his approach at the plate this year, providing a legitimate, high-impact offensive surge that can single-handedly rescue your infield metrics.

Through 80 games, Mead boasts an incredible .502 slugging percentage with 17 home runs and 44 runs batted in across 259 at-bats. This breakout is entirely sustainable based on his underlying data profile. Mead is generating a spectacular 131 weighted-runs-created-plus, meaning his overall offensive production is 31 percent above the league average.

He pairs that with a premium .365 weighted on-base average (wOBA) and a career-high 11.9 percent barrel rate. By lowering his strikeout rate to an impressive 18.6 percent and maintaining a 42.6 percent hard-hit rate, Mead is making authoritative contact every night.

If a savvy league mate has already beaten you to Mead, your pivoting strategy might want to shift immediately to recent Athletics call-up Tommy White. The former collegiate standout has hit his way into the big leagues after showcasing serious raw power throughout his professional development.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.

LEND ME AN ARM

Top available starters to bolster your fantasy staff

Jarad Wilk

Fantasy Insanity

FANTASY managers got a good scare when Brewers ace Jacob Misiorowski was scratched from his final start before the All-Star break because of arm fatigue.

Though he likely will take the mound when Milwaukee plays the Mets this week, the word "fatigue" is not something fantasy managers ever want associated with a pitcher leading the league in nearly every statistical category.

Misiorowski said he's ready to go for the second half, but that doesn't mean fantasy managers shouldn't be preparing for the worst-case scenario (i.e. workload reduction or an IL stint). This is a flamethrower who's already pitched 111 innings after pitching 129 1/3 innings (minors and majors) last year. He's also thrown an insane 670 pitches over 100 mph. That's why Roto Rage is looking at widely available pitchers worth adding now.

Did Reid Detmers (49% ESPN, 59% Yahoo) allow five earned runs in three of his last four starts? Yup. Did he issue three or more walks in three of those outings? He sure did. But there is a lot to for fantasy owners to like about the Angels lefty — even more so if he's dealt to a contender at the Aug. 3 trade deadline.

Not only was Detmers' xERA (3.38) a full point below the 4.39 ERA he took into Friday's start, but he also had a career-best walk rate (7.7 percent), a 27.2 percent strikeout rate, .215 opponents' average and 12.2 percent swinging strike rate. He had a 30.6 percent strikeout rate and 34.7 percent whiff rate with his slider, his second-most used pitch.

Roto Rage would not be surprised if Detmers finishes the season as a top 25 pitcher, already ranking 13th in strikeouts per nine, 18th in opponents' average and 19th in swinging strike rate.

Sean Burke (52.2% ESPN, 70% Yahoo) allowed more than three earned runs once in his last seven outings while going 4-1 with a 2.73 ERA, 32.7 percent strikeout rate, .216 opponents' average and a 13 percent swinging strike rate. The White Sox righty struck out at least six in each of those appearances and eight or more in five of them (including the last three).

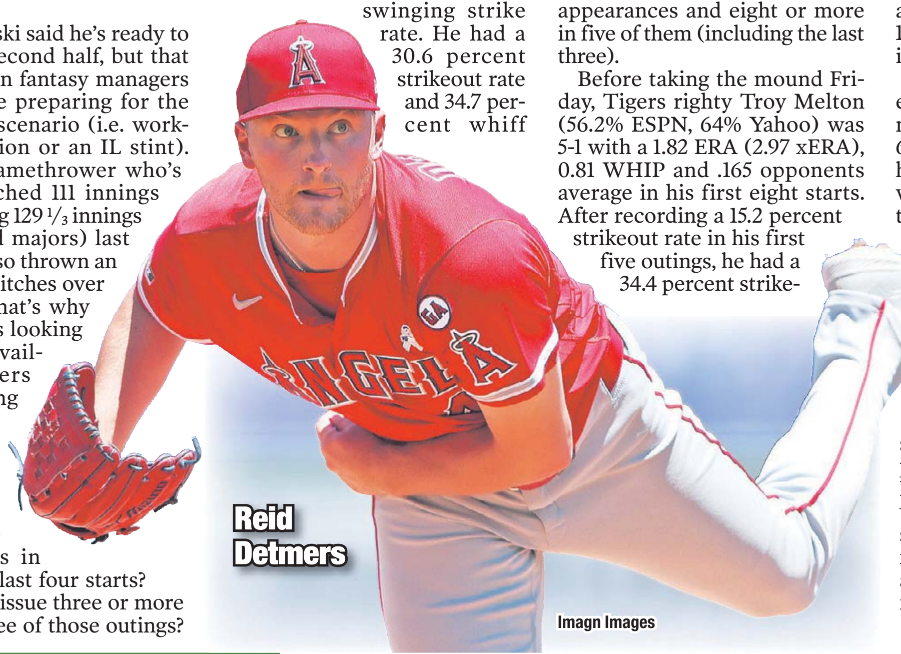
Before taking the mound Friday, Tigers righty Troy Melton (56.2% ESPN, 64% Yahoo) was 5-1 with a 1.82 ERA (2.97 xERA), 0.81 WHIP and .165 opponents average in his first eight starts. After recording a 15.2 percent strikeout rate in his first five outings, he had a 34.4 percent strikeout rate with a .129 opponents' average and 14.1 percent swinging strike rate over his last three. There will be regression, but a favorable schedule and strong expected stats should keep him a viable option.

Logan Henderson (27.1% ESPN, 57% Yahoo) is an injury risk, but he's 6-1 with a 2.52 ERA (3.33 xERA, 2.72 FIP), 11.2 strikeouts per nine, a .196 opponents' average and a 12.6 percent swinging strike rate in 11 career starts for the Brewers. He's 3-1 with a 3.18 ERA (3.04 xERA), 10.8 strikeouts per nine, 2.2 walks per nine, a .204 opponents' average and a 13.3 percent swinging strike rate in six starts this season.

The Guardians have the softest second-half schedule, which means Joey Cantillo (35.2% ESPN; 60% Yahoo) is an option despite his way-too-high 11.4 percent walk rate (the second worst in the majors). He didn't allow more than two earned runs in any of his six starts before the break, going 4-1 with a 1.59 ERA (2.66 xERA), 30.2 percent strikeout rate, .216 opponents' average and a 16.5 percent swinging strike rate.

If you're looking for an early stash, pick up Mariners top prospect Kade Anderson (3.3% ESPN, 15% Yahoo), who is 8-1 with a 1.36 ERA, 41.4 percent strikeout rate, 3.8 percent walk rate, .160 opponents' average and a 19.3 percent swinging strike rate in 14 Double-A starts.

jwilk@nypost.com



Reid Detmers

Imagn Images

CHECK SWINGS

- From May 1 through the end of the first half, **Pete Crow-Armstrong** ranked fifth in the league in average (.314) and runs (44), second in stolen bases (18), slugging percentage (.612) and on-base percentage (.421), and first in OPS (1.032).
- Despite walking 3.11 per nine innings over his last 11 starts, Philadelphia's **Jesús Luzardo** is 5-1 with a 2.03 ERA (2.71 xERA), 28.9 percent strikeout rate, .208 opponents' average and a 13.4 percent swinging strike rate.
- Cincinnati's **Eugenio Suárez** struck out at least once in 31 of his last 34 games before the All-Star break, going 24-for-124 (.194) with 56 strikeouts and a .673 OPS. He struck out three times in five his last six games before Friday, and 22 times in his first 11 games (46 plate appearances) this month.

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

Kurtz Car Rental

BIG HITS

Dylan Cease SP, Blue Jays

In his first six starts since June 1, he led the league in strikeouts per nine (13.87) and opponents' average (.144) while going 3-1 with a 1.73 ERA, 0.99 WHIP and a 14.4 percent swinging strike rate.

Esmerlyn Valdéz OF, Pirates

Went 27-for-70 (.386) with eight homers, 22 RBIs, 19 runs and a 1.286 OPS in his last 19 games before the break.

Foster Griffin SP, Nationals

Allowed three earned runs or less in each of his last nine starts, going 5-0 with a 1.49 ERA, 26.4 percent strikeout rate and .193 opponents' average.

Taj Bradley SP, Twins

Was 4-0 with a 2.32 ERA, 11 strikeouts per nine and a .173 opponents' average in his last five starts before taking the mound Saturday.

BIG WHIFFS

Jarren Duran OF, Red Sox

Struck out 29 times while hitting .139 with two homers, a .231 OBP and .459 OPS in 30 games before the Midsummer Classic.

Bryce Elder SP, Braves

Allowed 34 runs (32 earned), 10 homers and a .325 opponents' average in seven starts since May 27. He went 1-4 with a 8.47 ERA, 1.76 WHIP and 7.9 percent swinging strike rate in that span.

Nico Hoerner 2B/SS, Cubs

Hit .139 with a .179 OBP and .374 OPS in his first 10 games this month. Batted .194 with a .513 OPS in 26 games before the break.

Freddy Peralta SP, Mets

Has not reached the sixth inning in his last six starts, going 1-3 with a 6.49 ERA, 9.3 percent walk rate and a .302 opponents' average.

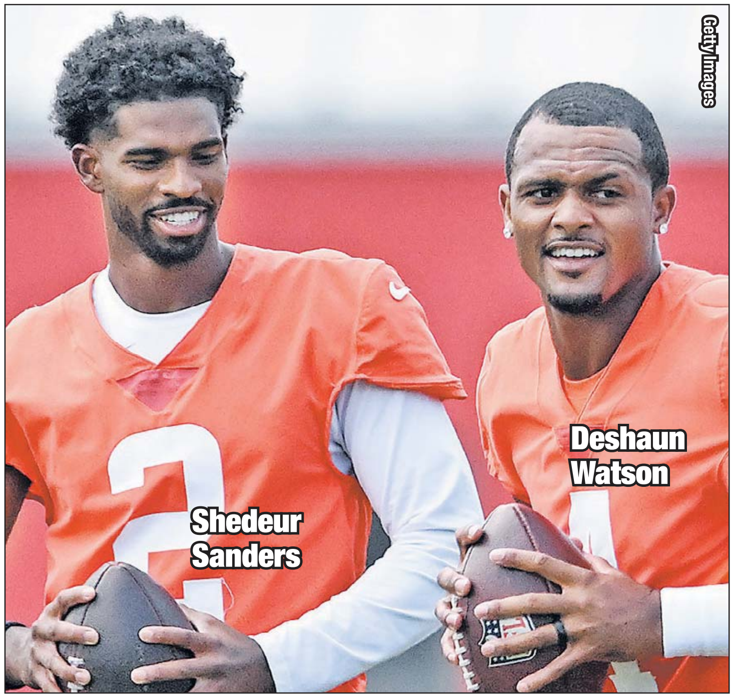
CHIEF OF THE WATCH

Mahomes' knee and other things to keep eye on with training camps set to open

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Patrick Mahomes
Aaron Rodgers
Fernando Mendoza
Aaron Donald

Getty Images (4)



Getty Images

KANSAS CITY is accustomed to being the epicenter of the NFL universe during the postseason.

But during the preseason? That's a new development for the Chiefs.

While several starting quarterbacks are expected to be cleared to start training camp after suffering season-ending injuries, only one is a two-time MVP and three-time Super Bowl champion. Apologies to Daniel Jones (Colts), Bo Nix (Broncos) and Jayden Daniels (Commanders), but there is only one Patrick Mahomes.

After suffering a torn ACL and LCL in December, Mahomes' goal is to play Week 1. So, Mahomes' day-to-day involvement in practices — and how mobile he looks in the pocket — will create major news as the Chiefs look to squeeze more out of a dynasty that seemed to be on its last legs; the Chiefs were 6-8 even before his injury.

Mahomes, 30, could have a renewed chip on his shoulder too, as fewer NFL talent evaluators than in the past see him as the clear top quarterback in the league.

This could be the start of Mahomes' final season throwing to his favorite target — newlywed Travis Kelce. And his next-favorite target, Rashee Rice, is expected back on the field after missing OTAs and minicamp while serving a 30-day jail sentence for a probation violation.

The Chiefs' Plan B if Mahomes is not ready is journeyman Justin Fields.

Here are nine other storylines as NFL training camps get underway this week, beginning with Wednesday's report date for the Panthers and Cardinals:

Will he or won't he?

Ever since the all-in Rams traded for Myles Garrett, future Hall of Famer Aaron Donald has fed speculation about possibly coming out of retirement after two seasons away.

Donald reportedly isn't looking for the half-season Roger Clemens Package.

If he returns, he wants to be part of the full ride (starting Saturday) and perform like his dominant self rather than a part-timer. That presumably means Donald would want to be paid top dollar, too, and that part could get sticky: He had one year left on a three-year, $95 million contract when he retired.

Farewell Tour

Love him or hate him, Aaron Rodgers is an NFL icon.

The retiring Rodgers begins his 22nd and final season by reuniting with his former Packers coach Mike McCarthy in Pittsburgh, where the Steelers are transitioning after 19 years under Mike Tomlin. Rodgers could catch Peyton Manning for No. 3 on the all-time touchdown passes chart this season.

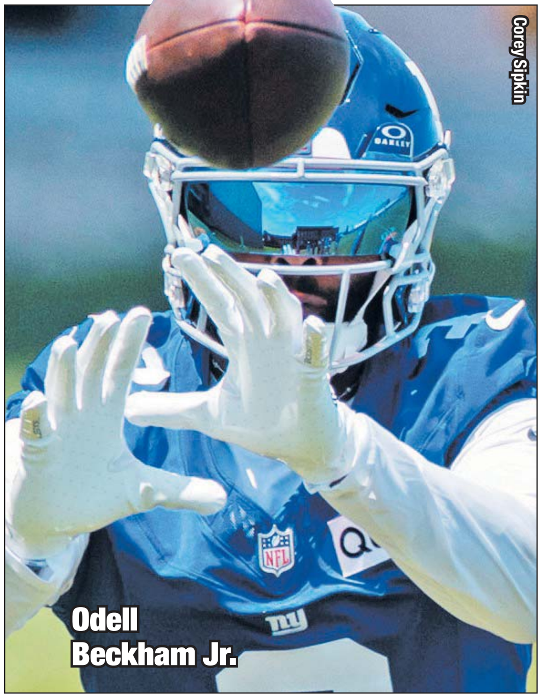
The battle in camp to be Rodgers' backup is between Mason Rudolph, Will Howard and rookie Drew Allar. Can either Howard or Allar make a case to be his heir apparent?

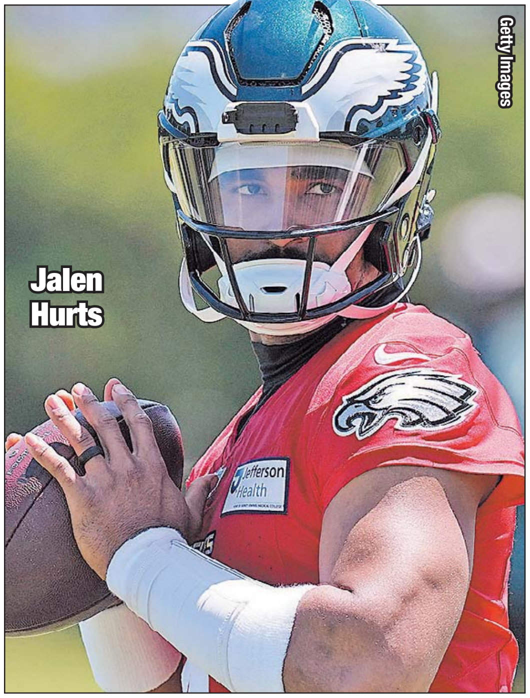
QB1 battles

The three main battles are in Cleveland (Deshaun Watson vs. Shedeur Sanders), Minnesota (Kyler Murray vs. J.J. McCarthy) and Atlanta (Tua Tagovailoa vs. Michael Penix Jr.).

The situations for Murray and Tagovailoa are similar: Former Pro Bowlers looking to restart their careers for playoff hopefuls by beating out 2024 first-round picks who have been beset by injuries.

Watson hasn't thrown for more than 1,200 yards or seven touchdowns since 2020 but is still eating up $40.9 million in salary cap space. Sanders is an ultra-confident lightning rod. And Dillon Gabriel —


Corey Sipkin
Odell Beckham Jr.


Getty Images

drafted two rounds ahead of Sanders in 2025 — already looks like the odd man out.

Mendoza Mania

Coaches every year vow to be patient with their rookie quarterbacks. They almost always give in to pressure.

When will No. 1 pick Fernando Mendoza force first-year coach Klint Kubiak's hand with the Raiders? He already got "a ton better" in his first month in the NFL.

Can placeholder Kirk Cousins — looking for redemption after his disastrous (but very lucrative) decision to leave the Vikings for the Falcons in 2024 — hold off Mendoza to get the Week 1 start?

Same faces, new places

A handful of former 1,000-yard receivers changed teams during the offseason and could have big impacts on the expectations for their quarterbacks: Welcome to an era of the Patriots' A.J. Brown, Broncos' Jaylen Waddle, Bills' D.J. Moore and 49ers' Mike Evans. Free agent Stefon Diggs looms as another difference-maker.

The Rams not only traded for Garrett but also added both Chiefs' starting cornerbacks: Trent McDuffie and Jaylen Watson.

The Bengals made a rare all-in trade for defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence after losing edge Trey Hendrickson to the rival Ravens, who backed out of a trade for the Raiders' Maxx Crosby.

Running back Kenneth Walker (Chiefs) became just the fourth Super Bowl MVP to change teams in the offseason after winning the honor.

Among Giants

Considering they have the second-worst record in the NFL since 2023, the Giants are generating an inordinate amount of summer buzz.

Why?

The arrival of Super Bowl-winning head coach John Harbaugh, a reunion between receiver Odell Beckham Jr. and the team where he was once one of the NFL's biggest stars to see if there is anything left in the injury-riddled tank after a season off, and the return from injury of viral running back Cam Skattebo (who should be ready for the start of camp) and receiver Malik Nabers (whose availability for Week 1 is more cloaked in mystery).

Contract standoffs

Which stars are willing to stage hold-ins — reporting to camp to avoid fines but sitting out practice with an "injury" — to gain leverage in their ongoing contract negotiations?

The list of candidates includes quarterbacks Baker Mayfield (Buccaneers), Jacoby Brissett (Cardinals) and Lamar Jackson (Ravens), running backs Jahmyr Gibbs (Lions) and Bijan Robinson (Falcons) in their quest for record-setting extensions, receivers Chris Olave (Saints) and Puka Nacua (Rams), pass rushers Josh Sweat (Cardinals) and Jalen Carter (Eagles), and cornerback Devon Witherspoon (Seahawks).

Do your job

The motto long associated with the Patriots will be put to the test.

Head coach Mike Vravel must refocus the defending AFC champions after an offseason of distraction caused by the nature of his relationship with NFL reporter Dianna Russini and whether that has led to any in-house questioning of his decision-making ability, accountability and roster tampering.

Eagle eye

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts is working with his seventh play-caller — first-timer Sean Mannion, who was a Seahawks backup quarterback in 2023 — in seven NFL seasons.

Hurts' leadership, coachability and passing efficiency all have come under question just one season after winning Super Bowl MVP. With A.J. Brown out of the locker room, is Hurts going to flourish? Or find another scapegoat for the offense's regression to Tush Push reliance?

It would help if Saquon Barkley showed summer explosion and flashes of his 2024 MVP-caliber form after a disappointing 2025. Eyes will be on the long-dominant Eagles offensive line without coach Jeff Stoutland too.

rdunleavy@nypost.com

Getty Images

NICE TRY, BUT... The Knicks signed center Moussa Cisse to an offer sheet, but the Mavericks matched later in the night on Saturday, meaning he will remain in Dallas. Getty Images

Knicks lose out on center Cisse as Mavs match

By BRIAN LEWIS

The Knicks tried to steal a backup center, only to see Dallas snatch Moussa Cisse back.

After the reigning NBA champions signed the restricted free agent to a two-year, $4.7 million offer sheet Saturday afternoon, the Mavericks had until Monday at 11:59 p.m. to match it. Turns out Dallas didn't even need that long, matching it later Saturday night in a move first reported by ESPN and confirmed by The Post.

With the Knicks having lost their backup center, it would have been a low-risk flier. Cisse's salary was half-guaranteed this season and non-guaranteed in 2027-28. It would become fully guaranteed on Oct. 1, according to ESPN's Bobby Marks. But now he's back in Dallas on that deal, and the Knicks are on to their next target.

Backup center Mitchell Robinson had been allowed to walk to the rival Celtics in the Knicks' effort to duck the punitive second apron. They did sign aging veteran Andre Drummond, but the champions have still been looking for ways to improve around the margins and seeking an athletic young big.

After sniffing around Charlotte's Moussa Diabaté and New Orleans shot-blocker Yves Missi on the trade market, they turned to the 23-year-old Cisse, who had eight games last season of at least five rebounds.

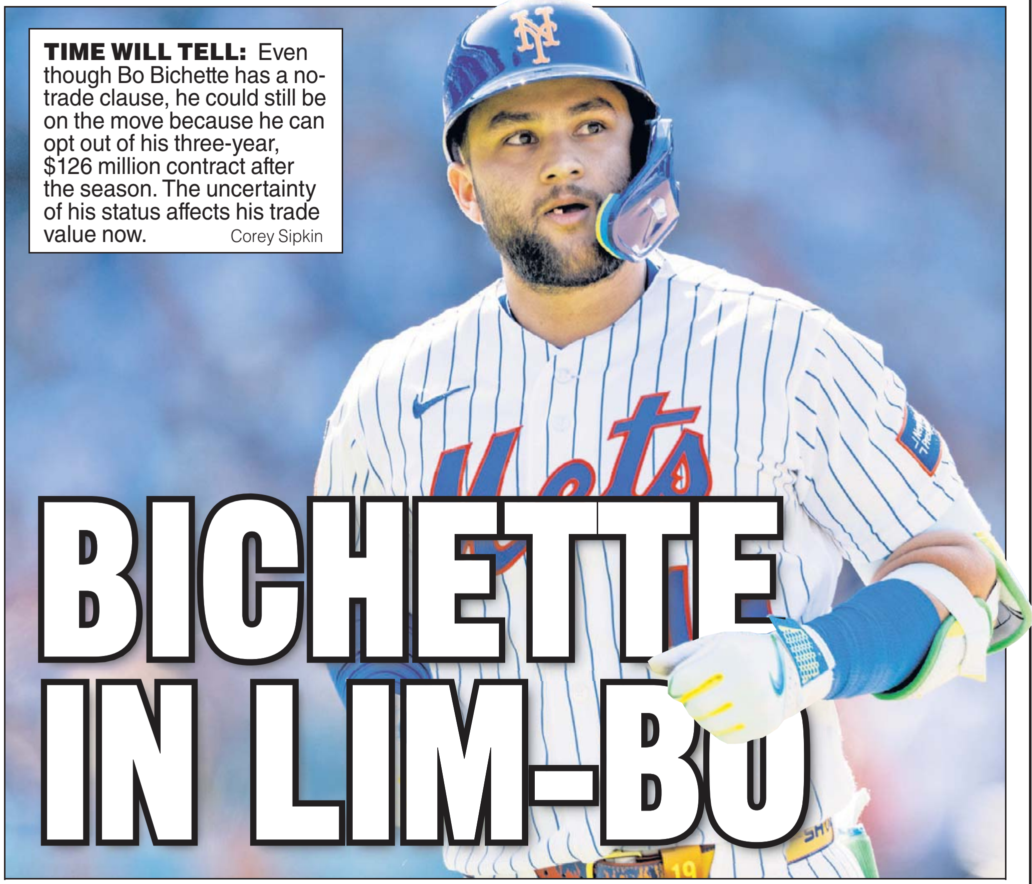
After growing up playing soccer in Conakry, Guinea, Cisse moved to New York when he was 14. He started playing his high school basketball at St. Benedict's Prep in Newark (N.J.) alongside former Knick Precious Achiuwa. He then moved on to Christ the King in Queens, leading them to the Class AA state title game.

The 6-foot-11 Cisse left an impression with his lone outing against the Knicks last season, putting up 15 points, nine rebounds and four blocks. But after signing the offer sheet to come to the Garden, Dallas promptly matched it to kill his homecoming before it ever got underway.

BICHETTE IN LIM-BO

Veteran faces an uncertain future as trade deadline nears

By MIKE PUMA



TIME WILL TELL: Even though Bo Bichette has a no-trade clause, he could still be on the move because he can opt out of his three-year, $126 million contract after the season. The uncertainty of his status affects his trade value now. Corey Sipkin

PHILADELPHIA — As someone with no-trade protection in his contract, Bo Bichette controls whether he will remain with the Mets beyond Aug. 3.

Bichette has indicated he's in no hurry to leave. And yet, the third baseman stopped short Saturday of saying he would block any trade proposal that involves him.

"That hasn't been brought to my attention right now, so I don't have an answer," Bichette said before the Mets faced the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park.

Bichette is a long shot to be traded given he can opt out of his three-year, $126 million contract after the season. The uncertainty of his status affects his trade value.

His offensive surge over the last six weeks has increased the likelihood he will opt out. But Bichette said he doesn't anticipate a decision on that front until after the season.

"I signed here because I believed in the talent here and it's exciting to play for an organization that was trying to win," Bichette said. "The reason I signed the contract was to have freedom for my own career, so I guess it would be too early to tell."

Bichette entered the day with an .844 OPS over his previous 36 games dating to June 3. It's the kind of right-handed production that would be hard to replace next season if Bichette departed.

The Mets have plenty of pitchers who figure to move before the trade deadline, but most of the position players they might look to deal have significant dollars remaining on their contracts.

Bichette was asked if the direction the organization appears headed will factor into whether he opts out of his contract.

"I think there's a lot of positive things here, and also some things that haven't gone right," he said. "Obviously, that is something everybody can see, but everything will be taken into account."

What are the positives?

"There's a lot of young players they have brought up, a positive outlook for the future," Bichette said. "And then on top, the organization is still trying to win. It's not an organization that is OK being mediocre. It's an organization that wants to win and wants to win the World Series and that is the goal. You couple that with a lot of good young players who have a really bright future. That's a positive thing."

The youth movement includes rookies Nolan McLean, A.J. Ewing and Carson Benge, in addition to Christian Scott. No member of that group is expected to be available in trade talks.

Bichette began the day with a .253/.297/.372 slash line overall after sputtering into early June. Bichette said he hasn't spent much time wondering why his success didn't arrive earlier.

"I can't do anything about those first two months," Bichette said. "I wish I had gotten off to the better start and who knows if the season would have gone differently not just for me, but for the team as a whole. I can't do anything about it."

mpuma@nypost.com

Green says Robert will play upon his return

By MIKE PUMA

PHILADELPHIA — Luis Robert Jr. could return to the Mets for their series in Milwaukee this week, leaving the team with more outfielders than starting spots.

"He's looking better and better," interim manager Andy Green said Saturday before the Mets lost to the Phillies.

The Mets traded for Robert last winter to serve as their starting center fielder, but during his time on the injured list with lumbar spine disc herniation, rookie A.J. Ewing has emerged as a bright spot, joining rookie Carson Benge and Juan Soto in the outfield.

Where does that leave Robert?

METS NOTES

"All of them are going to play," Green said. "That's right for us from a matchup perspective. That's right from a talent-level perspective when it comes to the two kids that we feel strongly about. It's their first full professional season — taking a day off a week as we get into the dog days of [summer] isn't going to hurt them, it will help them.

"We welcome really good baseball players back to the team and we'll be excited to get [Robert's] bat in the lineup, and he will get some days off as well."

➤ Green said the Mets are "compliant" with rules regarding the use of AI in the dugout to dictate game strategy.

The Post reported Friday that MLB issued a memo last month telling teams that use of such an app wouldn't be permitted. The Mets were among a handful of teams using such technology.

"Whatever the rules are, we remain fully compliant and Major League Baseball makes those determinations, and we go out and play a game," Green said.

➤ **Clay Holmes** threw 45 pitches in a simulated game because rain canceled his first minor league rehab start for Single-A Brooklyn.

Holmes, who is returning from a fractured right fibula, will have to build up to five innings before he's considered for a return to the Mets.

➤ **Eric Wagaman** started at first base to give the Mets an extra right-handed bat in the lineup against lefty **Jesús Luzardo**. Ideally, **Jorge Polanco** would be taking those at-bats, but the veteran switch-hitter still isn't ready to play first base following his return from the injured list.

"Right now, we got him back to get his bat in the mix," Green said. "We have thought of him primarily as a DH for the short term. As we get into August, if he continues to feel good, I would expect us to start to explore [first base] ... that was obviously the intent when we signed him."

Yankees' Schmidt progressing in recovery

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Pitching reinforcements are on the way.

Clarke Schmidt, coming off the second Tommy John surgery of his career, is making progress toward a return.

On Saturday, before the Yankees-Dodgers game was postponed due to rain, Schmidt threw a simulated game for the first time during his rehabilitation.

CLARKE SCHMIDT

"It was great. I felt good. Nice and easy," the right-hander said. "Felt like I was moving really well. Felt good to have some competition, compete again and get some cleats on the dirt. So I was excited."

The plan is for Schmidt to throw another simulated game in five days. He threw 15 pitches in this outing, but not any breaking balls. He wasn't going full bore, on the advice of the medical staff, who wanted him to ease into it. He did top out at 94 mph Saturday.

"I think Gerrit [Cole] ended up, in his first live in spring training, he threw all fastballs," Schmidt said. "I think they're kind of like, 'This [is] a good North Star to have right here so we'll just follow his method.' I spun some in the pregame and stuff like that in the bullpen, but just all fastballs."

What Schmidt's role will be when he returns remains to be seen, manager Aaron Boone said. Schmidt is open to doing whatever the Yankees want, whether that is as a reliever or starter. He's just determined to rejoin his teammates.

"That's the only thing on my mind right now. I want to help this team," Schmidt said. "Obviously I care about my career and the long term and stuff like that, but for me right now, I know how talented we are. I've seen the upside of this team throughout this season. So being a part of that, and being able to help in any way I can, when I lay my head down at night it's all I'm thinking about: How can I be an impact on this team?"

The 30-year-old Schmidt was in the midst of a strong season a year ago, notching a 3.32 ERA across 14 starts and 78 $^2/_3$ innings pitched, before suffering the elbow injury.

zbraziller@nypost.com

Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

If Goodell won't do anything about NFL's lawless players, maybe he can find way to cash in instead

Partner in crime

SHAMELESS: Terrion Arnold, at his pretrial detention hearing June 29, was released by the Lions following his arrest for armed robbery and kidnapping. Four teams inquired about his services in case he beats the rap. AP

ROGER GOODELL and his merry band of enabling team owners whose franchises are worth tens of billions are in dire need of a lecture from Professor Harold Hill from "The Music Man," who beseeched the mothers of River City to heed this warning:

"You are not aware of the caliber of disaster indicated by the presence of a pool table in your community. ... Well, ya got trouble my friends."

The NFL has a serious crime problem, as in felony crimes. Its team rosters are beginning to swell with players who are as familiar to police and the legal system as Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg is to ignoring what he can't miss.

Two weeks ago, Lions CB Terrion Arnold, a 2024 first-round pick out of Alabama — the SEC is lousy with young criminals now paid above the table — was arrested, charged with armed robbery and kidnapping, several steps beyond more standard arrests of "student-athletes" such as driving 115 mph with a suspended license and a Glock in the glove compartment.

The Lions apparently felt that these charges could stick, that Arnold and his alleged accomplices are capable of such criminality, as they released him.

No worries. At least four teams quickly expressed their interest in signing Arnold for the time being, or if he beats the raps or cops to a plea that would allow him to walk.

Not that we should be surprised, but the Jets — who flushed a long ticket waiting list to sell Goodell's "good investment" PSLs with bogus claims — are among the teams interested in signing Arnold. He'd make a good companion piece for reprised starting QB Geno Smith, who already this offseason has been busted for more NFL player-like allegations, including driving without a license and a since-closed sexual assault investigation.

So, in an attempt to serve Goodell's pandering, see-no-evil approach to criminal conduct — his end zone and helmet messages point to only the public as uncivilized slugs — we're going to provide him with a justice-is-blind marketing plan:

Throw Arnold into a league-wide auction. Pending trial or legal resolution, all teams may bid on Arnold, the spectacle — "The Decision 2026," a la LeBron James' bottled water endorsement sham, "The Decision" — can be sold exclusively to garbage purveyor ESPN or a double-pay streaming service such as the WTF Network.

The bidding war will be held in primetime. As the winner is announced, he'll step forward in his new team's cap and jersey to receive Goodell's standard draft-night bear hug. Wild applause will be solicited from the live audience or piped into the auditorium on a recording.

"The Decision 2026, Sponsored By Nike" merchandise will be available online or in urban NFL Stores. Be the first on your cellblock!

Naturally, Goodell will have Jay-Z select a vulgar, women-degrading, gun-loving, cops-hating, crotch-grabbing, N-wording rapper who did hard time to provide the entertainment.

Mike Tirico, suspended by ESPN for sexual misconduct and now NBC's lead sports shill who claims that everything NBC airs is "historic," can be hired for the night to host the telecast.

It's a can't-miss, Roger. And if Arnold is convicted of armed robbery and kidnapping, the NFL Network, now co-owned by ESPN, can deliver an exclusive chat with him from prison, sponsored by ESPN BET and Three Hots & A Cot Stripes, made-in-China prisonwear.

Whattaya say, Roger? It'll be a boost to your bold-print bottom line, TV and ad revenue.

Don't thank me, Roger. I'm an advocate for good, creative television. A big hug, the kind you laid on Ray Lewis before the Super Bowl and after he'd paid off the families of two men Lewis had been accused of murdering, is all I need.

Brave choice to do right by Nitkowski

RECENTLY, Braves TV analyst **C.J. Nitkowski** noted that promising outfielder **Eli White** had returned from paternity leave:

"He and his wife, they're just such great people. We need great people in this world. The more Whites, the better."

Of course, outside of ESPN where **Doug Adler** was fired for imagined racism and **Stephen A. Smith** is promoted and given huge raises for ludicrous and wildly inaccurate anti-white racism, Nitkowski was immediately understood to have not made a racist comment, so he soldiered on.

Years ago, something similar happened to me. We were vacationing with another family, the Whites, when it was time for our children to leave the hotel pool to prepare for dinner. That pool was being enjoyed by black, white and Asian kids.

The White's kids were slow to respond, so I stood by the side of the pool and hollered, "All you White kids, out of the pool!"

I felt myself turn, er, white. Or red. But I'd neither said nor intended to say anything racist so I laughed to myself and carried on.

That's when I knew I'd not be part of the politically correct nonsense to spell black, as in African-American, with an uppercase B. As a matter of equality, I also continued to spell white, as in skin color, with a lowercase W.

Betances providing relief as YES part-time studio analyst

DELLIN Betances, the former Yanks and Mets pitcher born in Washington Heights, has been good as a part-time studio analyst for YES. Relaxed and eager to contribute, he often prefers to address the game rather than parrot a pile of stats, like regular **Jack Curry**.

➤ Impolitic crack making the internet World Cup rounds: England and France were the last two teams from Muslim countries to be eliminated.

➤ Hurricanes billionaire team owner **Tom Dundon** had his name and the names of his wife and five kids engraved on the Stanley Cup. OK, so he's a rich jerk.

➤ The racial double-standard at ESPN persists as unctuous blowhard and bad-guess race hustler **Stephen A. Smith** attacked the Lakers for the prospect of this season starting three white players. Where would Smith be if he weren't black? Where would Doug Adler be if he were?

➤ Is there a **Megan Rapinoe** in the house? While I know that ESPN's tennis voices demand that we unconditionally love **Coco Gauff**, but after losing in the semis at Wimbledon the American couldn't spare five seconds to praise the winner?

➤ Guess with **Phil Mickelson** again accused of being a sleazeball, **Jim Nantz** and **Mike Francesa** can reference him by his last name as opposed to buddy-boy "Phil."

➤ Apple streaming has announced that it will exclusively televise Yanks- Jays on Aug. 14 and Red Sox-Yanks on Aug. 28. Not only are Apple's MLB telecasts dreadfully produced and spoken, I wonder if **Rob Manfred** stops to consider — or even cares — how often this season he has minimized MLB viewership in the nation's largest TV market.

➤ Excuse the self-indulgence, but **Mason Miller**, the lights-out Padres reliever afflicted by diabetes, is a graduate of my alma mater, Waynesburg University, a small Presbyterian college for small Presbyterians. (Best nine years of my life too!)

MushnickPhilip@gmail.com

Mike Vaccaro

OPEN MIKE

mvaccaro@nypost.com

Getty Images (2)

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappé surely weren't happy they had to play in a meaningless third-place match Saturday.

No consolation in relic match that leaves no winners

3RD MENTALITY

FRANCE and England played the penultimate match of the World Cup on Saturday afternoon, and so once again we are faced with the existential question:

Whither the consolation game?

We'll start there. Officially, this is called the "Third-Place Match," and it may not sound like much, but for years in other sports it was called by its more colloquial name: the consolation game. This was always a little bit funny because there's really nothing at all consoling about these games. The old saying goes that second place is just the "first loser," so what does that make third place?

For years, there have been different takes on either side of the aisle on this one.

"I think this match should never be played," then-Netherlands manager Louis van Gaal said in 2014, when his team beat host Brazil 3-0 to finish third, according to The Athletic. "I've been saying that for 10 years. It's unfair. The worst thing is that there is a chance you are going to lose twice in a row. And in a tournament in which you have played so marvelously well, you go home as a loser."

Sure. That's understandable.

But there's also this, from Bill Bradley.

"In some ways, playing in the consolation game was the best feeling I ever had as a basketball player," Bradley said not so long ago. "For one thing, I knew for a fact that it would be the last game I ever played in that uniform. There were no other college games left for me. And it was one last time for my teammates and I to enjoy each other, play the game we loved with each other. I savored every moment of that game."

Of course, that March 20, 1965, Bradley probably produced the finest moment in any consolation game ever played in any sport. The night before, Bradley's Princeton Tigers had fallen to mighty Michigan, 93-76, to officially end their Cinderella run to the Final Four, in the national semifinals.

The next night, at Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Ore., Bradley poured in an NCAA tournament-record 58 points in a 118-82 thrashing of Wichita State. Bradley shot 22-for-29 from the floor, 14-for-15 from the line, and probably would have had more if his coach, Butch Van Breda Kolff, had given him the same admonition pregame that he did at halftime.

"For crissake, Bill," Butch growled at Bradley, "for once in your life, just shoot the g--damn ball!"

His teammates agreed with their coach, and so Bradley had a night for himself and for the ages, and all these years later Bradley's is still the second-most points ever scored in the 4,115 NCAA Tournament games played since 1939 (Austin Carr dropped in 61 against Ohio in 1970).

So there's one case for having it. Another is the Little League World Series, which still has a consolation game, and look: When you're 12 years old and you get one more chance to squeeze another baseball game out of the summer? That's more than consolation; that's heaven.

Maybe the strangest example of a consolation game was something the NFL used to put on every year called the "Playoff Bowl."

Ten were played from 1960-69, all of them at the Orange Bowl, and it can safely be said that nobody ever wanted to be there — not the coaches, not the players and by the end, not the fans. Bad enough that the game pitted (at first) the two second-place finishers from each division and, later, the losers of the conference semifinals; not only was it actually called "The Runner-Up Bowl" at first, but it was actually played a week AFTER the championship game.

The Lions — who haven't won a real championship since 1957 — have the unwanted distinction of winning the most Playoff Bowls — three. Vince Lombardi, whether he said it or not, most famously is credited for coining the classic quote: "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." But here's a vote for Best Lombardi Quote, his take on the Playoff Bowl, in which his Packers played twice:

"It's the 'S--t Bowl,' a losers bowl for losers. It's a hinky-dink football game, held in a hinky-dink town, played by hinky-dink players. That's all second place is — hinky-dink."

Hate to correct you, Coach. It's actually *third* place.

VAC'S WHACKS

WHY IT'S a tough job: **Aaron Boone** wanted to take **Gerrit Cole** out Friday night. Cole talked him out of it, much to the delight of everyone who believed pitchers are too often treated like infants. But only Boone has to answer for the **Max Muncy** home run that followed. Tough gig.

➤ Watching **Lionel Messi** is like watching **Magic Johnson** in his prime. Even if you don't quite know what you're looking at, you know it's different from everyone else around him. It's amazing.

➤ **Jimmy Cannon** probably wouldn't have been delighted by the France-Spain game on the back page over the All-Star Game on Wednesday. But as Mr. Cannon's column-ial descendant, I admit I watched all 90 minutes of the soccer and not one pitch of the baseball. So ... there's that.

➤ **Caitlin Clark** had 45 points and 10 assists in a win the other night for the Indiana Fever, and all I know is that's pretty darn good for the 11th-best guard in the WNBA.

WHACK BACK AT VAC

Russell Anderson: The Mets were supposedly using a loophole to utilize AI for in-game decisions during the first half of this season. More like AI (artificial ignorance).
Vac: *Some jokes write themselves, you know?*

Alan Hirschberg: Since June 1, through the All-Star break, Pete Crow-Armstrong batted .374 with 14 homers and an OPS of 1.232. Why can't the Mets ever draft somebody like that?
Vac: *I'm old enough to remember when Nolan Ryan was the star of that punchline.*

@JBFOX508: Thankfully the Knicks don't need to be a part of this LeBron sweepstakes. It's always a circus with LeBron, and the Knicks don't need him as presently constituted.
@MikeVacc: *As they say on the cop shows: Copy that.*

Kevin Bryant: Your alternate Knicks world column brought back memories of one swing without which an entire dynasty may have been missed: Jim Leyritz's homer off Mark Wohlers to tie Game 4 of the 1996 World Series. Had they gone down 3-1 after that game, does any of a huge hunk of Yankee championship history happen?
Vac: *That group would've figured it out eventually, I think. But thanks to that swing ... we know!*

EVERY SUNDAY MIKE VACCARO RESPONDS TO READERS' QUESTIONS AT MVACCARO@NYPOST.COM AND @MIKEVACC ON X

Rough patch

McIlroy slams Bryson as Open rules controversy divides field

By MARK CANNIZZARO

SOUTHPORT, England — There was still a buzz around Birkdale on Saturday about the Bryson DeChambeau rules-infraction saga that played out late into Friday night.

DeChambeau was docked two strokes by R&A officials for improving his lie and line of his backswing by stamping down some high grass around his ball on the fifth hole of his second round.

That subsequently turned into a dramatic reenactment on the hole with officials by DeChambeau, who was driven back out to No. 5 and had a heated argument with them before the penalty became official.

No player reaction Saturday was more polarizing — and spoken with more venom — than the one that came from Rory McIlroy, who said he was "watching it live" in the players' lounge with a few other players.

RORY McILROY

"As soon as he made the step into the ball, we all sort of looked at each other, and we were like, 'That didn't seem right,' " McIlroy said. "Then, when I heard that he was called in by the rules officials ... it was pretty obvious why. I think there's no doubt that he improved the line of his backswing.

"Whether it was careless or whether it was intentional, I don't think it matters. Hopefully it was careless, but I think the two-shot penalty was justified for sure. But it didn't look good."

McIlroy, like many of the other players, sounded agitated that the incident delayed the release of the Saturday tee times until late Friday night.

"Look, I won't pretend to be up here and defend Bryson," McIlroy said. "I'm not particularly fond of him. I think a lot of it's performative. I think a lot of it's for attention. To hold the tournament hostage like that, and to have all of us, players, volunteers, everyone waiting on him to depart, I didn't feel like it was a great look."

Some other players, while not as caustic as McIlroy, agreed with his take.

"It looks to me like he improved his lie, and that's the rules of golf," Shane Lowry said Saturday. "It's unfortunate for him, but that's the way it is. It was obviously going to be very tough for him to go out and play [Saturday] after that happening, but ... "

As it turned out, it didn't appear that difficult for DeChambeau. After shooting a 1-under 69 to stand at 6 under for the tournament, 4 shots behind leader Sam Burns, he continued to refuse interview requests and declined comment.

He was cheered wildly at the first tee when he began his round, and, as he walked to the 18th green at the end of the round, he received a massive ovation from the packed grandstands, giving everyone a thumbs-up.

Scottie Scheffler, who was paired with DeChambeau for the first two rounds, offered a cryptic response when asked about the incident.

"I don't really have a ton to say on it," he said before adding, "Actually, I do have a ton to say. I haven't decided exactly what I want to say publicly yet. I do have some thoughts. I don't really feel like now is the time or place for me to comment.

"We're in the middle of a tournament, and I'm focused on what I need to do. [I] just feel like it's not a road I want to go down today."

Jon Rahm, Xander Schauffele and other players had mixed thoughts about whether DeChambeau should have been penalized or not.

"We were the group behind [DeChambeau on Friday], so I was aware when we got to scoring," Rahm said. "For people who have seen all the images, I think the consensus is that, although it wasn't intentional, it was an infraction."

Schauffele called it "a tough one" for DeChambeau, adding, "I haven't spoken to him or heard what he said, but he's just stepping in how you'd normally step in to hit a golf shot. I think the R&A said something along the lines of whether it's intentional or not, it's still a penalty.

"It's a tough spot to be, obviously, when you're in high brush, kind of having to dance around to get to your golf ball is a tricky thing," Schauffele went on. "You imagine you give him the benefit of the doubt. It's unfortunate that he got penalized because he was playing incredibly well and obviously he's still playing incredibly well."

DeChambeau was about to sign for a 4-under 66 that moved him to 7 under for the tournament and in second place Friday. The penalty dropped him to 5 under par and in a tie for fifth as he began his third round Saturday.

Max Homa was the most ardent supporter of DeChambeau, saying he "did not agree with the ruling."

"I've known Bryson for a very long time, and he's an interesting human at times, but I know he would never cheat the game of golf," Homa said. "I don't really love how it happened."

mcannizzaro@nypost.com

DE-SHAMBLES: Bryson DeChambeau reacts to a rules official during his third round at the British Open on Saturday. A day earlier, a rules infraction cost him two strokes and triggered critique from Rory McIlroy, among other competitors. Getty Images (2)

Fox cards week's third record-tying 62 at Birkdale

By MARK CANNIZZARO

BRITISH OPEN NOTES

SOUTHPORT, England — Another day at the British Open, another 62 posted.

A day after two players — Lucas Herbert and Sam Burns — tied the major championship record for lowest round with 62s, Ryan Fox matched it Saturday.

Fox, a 39-year-old from New Zealand, carded nine birdies and had one bogey en route to his 62. The round got him to 8 under and tied for the lead with the lead group not teeing off for another 80 minutes.

By day's end, Fox was two shots off the lead held by Burns, who followed his 62 with a 65 on Saturday.

"Being picky, I'd want a couple of drives back today maybe, but outside of that, I feel like I didn't really miss a shot," Fox said. "When you're out in the morning, when the wind's down around here, there's almost some pressure on to shoot a score.

"To be honest, I warmed up better yesterday," Fox said of his second round Friday. "I was going well yesterday. I was 4 under through 11, [and] I kind of struggled a bit coming home. Golf doesn't make sense like that."

Fox was paired with Xander Schauffele, who shot 62 in the 2023 U.S. Open and the 2024 PGA Championship and posted a 4-under 66 on Saturday.

"You'd take a 62 anywhere," Schauffele said. "If it's in a major it's a cherry on top. But on a Saturday it's even better."

Schauffele said Fox "came out hot" in his round.

"He played amazing," Schauffele said. "I went and I was just trying to hop on whatever wave he was on to the best of my ability. Obviously, [we were] trying to play the best we can, but when you're even par starting eight [shots] back, you're just trying to go and shoot a good number, and he did just that."

Schauffele said the pins were placed in difficult spots, which made Fox's round even more impressive.

"You definitely saw that they did not want another 62, looking at the pin sheet," he said. "I don't know where they're going to put the pins tomorrow after Foxy's 62, but they were on some slope for sure. His 62 is impressive for sure."

Fox's 62 was the eighth posted in major championship history, joining Schauffele and Scottie Scheffler, both of whom did it twice, Shane Lowry, Branden Grace, Herbert and Burns.

Fox, who's played in 28 major championships and has only two top 20 finishes, had a chance to own the record on his own with a 61, but he left his 48-foot birdie putt on the 18th a few feet short of the hole.

He said shooting 62 "probably crept into my head on 10, but I wouldn't say it was there," adding, "Then, when I birdied 14, I was like, 'I've got a chance here.' "

He birdied Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 on the front nine en route to a 29 and then 10, 14, 16 and 17 on the back, with one bogey on No. 13.

"It's nice to be in that head space," Fox said. "Hopefully, I can find something similar [Sunday]."

➤ The two Met Area locals, **Cam Young** and **Chris Gotterup**, failed to make a move Saturday. Young, who began the day at 6 under and two shots off the lead, shot a 3-over 73 to fall to 3 under. And Gotterup shot a 2-over 72 to fall to even par for the week.

mcannizzaro@nypost.com

BURNS, BABY, BURNS

Fresh off welcoming newborn daughter, American vaults to British Open lead

By MARK CANNIZZARO

SOUTHPORT, England — If we're being realistic, Sam Burns deserves to win the 154th British Open on Sunday at Royal Birkdale.

First, he followed a second-round record-tying 62 on Friday with a third-round 65 on Saturday, which is a feat.

Second, he did so while paired with Bryson DeChambeau, who has become a living, breathing, walking sideshow at the Open this week.

Because he's been the best, most consistent player in the field that began with 156 players, Burns will take a two-shot lead into Sunday's final round at 10 under par.

Ryan Fox, who posted a 62 early in the day Saturday, is 8 under as is Si Woo Kim, who shot 67.

Lucas Herbert, who shot 62 on Friday and 71 on Saturday, is 7 under along with Ryan Gerard, who shot 69.

DeChambeau, Ludvig Åberg and Jackson Suber are four back at 6 under. Tommy Fleetwood, the hometown hero, is 5 under and not out of it.

But this day — the last two days really — belonged to Burns, the quiet Louisiana native who hadn't even planned to play this week because his wife, Caroline, had given birth to their daughter, Belle, on July 3.

"This golf tournament was honestly so far off of my radar and expectations of playing," Burns said. "I mean, Caroline's due date was Tuesday this week. She was like four days late with our son. I just didn't think there was any possible way, and little Belle had different plans for us.

"Even after she was born, after a couple of days I wasn't thinking much about it. Caroline was kind of like, 'So, what are you thinking for next week?' I was like, 'I don't know. Should we talk about it?'

"Ultimately, she's the one that really encouraged me to come over and play. She basically said, 'I've got this at home. Go over there and give it your best.'

"And here we are."

The rest of the field probably wishes Burns stayed home with his wife and newborn this week.

It probably hopes he hadn't consulted his wife after a poor finish to his opening round, which ended in three consecutive bogeys and a 3-over 73.

"After finishing bogey, bogey, bogey on Thursday, I was pretty upset — that's an understatement," Burns said. "I talked to Caroline, texted with her, and she basically told me, like, 'You're over there, and I'm good at home. We're good. You need to be where your feet are.'

"I think that was really what I needed to hear in that moment. I came out Friday and had nothing to lose. I feel like my game was in a good place."

Burns has been close in recent majors. He seemingly had control of the 2025 U.S. Open at Oakmont, but faltered after a rain delay in the final round.

In last month's U.S. Open at Shinnecock, he was right there in the final round, chasing eventual winner Wyndham Clark on the back nine, but could not hole any crucial putts. He walked off the 18th green in tears after that one.

Burns has rationalized his failures in recent majors with a chance to win. And he credited his close friend Scottie Scheffler, with whom he plays all the time.

"At some of these golf courses where you're penalized a little bit more than a typical [PGA] Tour golf course we play, I think I hadn't quite learned that the hard way yet," Burns said. "It took a bit longer for me. It helped that I got to play a lot of golf with the best player on the planet [Scheffler] and kind of watch what he does.

"He's far and beyond the best person that does that. He makes so few mistakes, and he doesn't take on unnecessary risks very often, if ever, and seems to always hit the correct shot in the moment.

"It wasn't like I asked him about it or we talked a lot about it. It was just me observing. I think that had a pretty large impact on me the last couple years in the majors and just kind of watching how he prepares and the way he goes about it."

Burns said the "margin is so thin that I just haven't quite been able to hole that extra putt or make that extra chip or whatever it is" to take one of these big tournaments home.

"Ultimately, it comes down to being able to go out there and execute," he said. "I feel like when I've been close I haven't been able to do that as well as I would like to. That will be the game plan for tomorrow — just try to go out there and give myself as many looks as possible on the greens and see what happens."

mcannizzaro@nypost.com

British Open

Royal Birkdale Golf Club
Southport, England

Leaderboard	
Sam Burns	-10
Si Woo Kim	-8
Ryan Fox	-8
Lucas Herbert	-7
Ryan Gerard	-7
Bryson DeChambeau	-6
Ludvig Åberg	-6
Jackson Suber	-6
Tommy Fleetwood	-5
R. Neergaard-Petersen	-5
Notables	
Scottie Scheffler	-4
Jon Rahm	-4
Xander Schauffele	-4
Rory McIlroy	-2

On the air

Sunday
USA: 1-4 a.m.
NBC: 4-11 a.m.

FORE-CAST

Sunday
77 degrees: Mostly sunny
0 pct. chance of rain
Winds: NW 17 mph

IN CONTROL: Sam Burns followed a record-tying 62 on Friday with a 65 on Saturday to take a two-shot lead into the final round of the British Open. Just as impressive, he did it while playing with Bryson DeChambeau (inset), who has become a sideshow at Royal Birkdale. Getty Images (2)

'Tommy Lad' soaks in adulation of his hometown crowd

Mark Cannizzaro

SOUTHPORT, England — Everyone once in their lifetime should feel loved the way the Royal Birkdale fans adore Tommy Fleetwood.

Everyone should experience one day filled with the adulation that Fleetwood has received this week from the massive crowds, some 300,000 strong for the 154th British Open.

Southport is where "Tommy Lad" is from. He's the "Son of Southport," and the fans from every grandstand and behind every fairway rope have been lifting him with an energy that's difficult to describe unless you're there with him.

"You hear it constantly no matter where he goes — it's constant unconditional support," Jon Rahm, who was paired with Fleetwood on Saturday, said.

As Rahm spoke inside an interview tent, Fleetwood was obviously somewhere in the vicinity because fans were serenading him with soccer songs using his name.

"It's a really beautiful thing that the town is so hopeful for me and they want me to do well," Fleetwood said after shooting 69 to stand five shots off the lead entering Sunday's final round. "I can't ask for any more from thousands and thousands of people out there. They've made a massive difference to me.

"Whatever happens [Sunday] — like [Friday] evening, the first tee every day, today when I was in contention — that's stuff that I'll have for life. How many people in the golfing world get to experience that with the crowd that much on your side?

"It's been a very special week for me no matter what. If I can get it tomorrow, I could make it even more special. We'll see."

Fleetwood was, when he got to 7 under par on the back nine Saturday, within one shot of the lead, and the buzz everywhere he went was palpable.

He faltered a bit on the way home, though, giving shots back on Nos. 15 and 18 to drop back to 5 under.

He'll need to go low Sunday to make Birkdale's dream come true, visions of "Tommy Lad" hoisting the Claret Jug to the sky on the 18th green.

From the jump this week, even with the litany of fantastic storylines that awaited this Open, the most delicious one of all was always Fleetwood breaking through to win his first major in his hometown on the championship course he and his construction worker father, Pete, used to sneak onto when he was a kid.

"If he gets going early, makes two, three birdies the first four or five holes, you can ride that wave and everybody on the course will know where Tommy is and what's going on," Rahm said. "I can't imagine what it's like to play what's most likely his favorite event of the year at home, because I get a small pinch of what it feels like to play when I play in the Spanish Open, and if it was a major in Spain, I can only imagine what it feels like. It's just the added energy and emotion that comes from the crowd. You can use it to play better, or it can at times actually be a bit of a challenge. There's just so much energy going on, and Tommy is a rather calm person.

"He's done a fantastic job at managing it," Rahm went on. "It's just a lot more to deal with the whole week, not just today. It's something he needs to be aware of constantly. When things are going good, it's very easy to ride that wave."

When I asked Fleetwood if he's allowed himself to dream about what Birkdale would be like if he's in contention late Sunday, he said, "Yeah, I've done it most days since I was 7 years old, and it still hasn't stopped."

"That's what life's about, right?" he went on. "You daydream and you dream about the biggest things possible and then you try and make it a reality. I've been pretty close to it this week. Today was as close as you're going to get. I was within one of the lead at the Open playing on the back nine.

"So, it's been pretty close already, and then you've just got the ultimate at the end of it, which would be holding the Claret Jug. Life is all about experiences, and I think I've had some of the best experiences of my life so far this week."

Thoughts of those experiences getting even better with the Claret Jug in his arms Sunday feel like almost too much to ask.

But you never know.

"There's great rounds out there around this golf course," Fleetwood said. "If you just look at things logically, I would rather be on a better score, of course. But ... if I can build some momentum, if I can get the crowd going a little bit and those roars echo around the golf course, you never know."

Tommy Fleetwood

Getty Images

SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ...

Christian SCOTT

Christian Scott, the Mets young righty who looks like he could become a rotation staple, takes a swing at some Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby.

Q: How does your mentality change when you take the mound?
A: I like history, I like watching YouTube videos. I like enjoying different kinds of food, and on the mound it's more of like a kill mentality of, that guy's trying to take food off my plate, I'm trying to take food off of his. It's a competition, and it's a game and it's my life, really. So it's definitely more of a competitive attitude, more of a competitive fire. I don't like to let up.

Q: You can go back in time and face one batter in MLB history to test your skills.
A: Babe Ruth. I want to see what the hype was about. I want to see if my fastball would blow him up (laugh). I respect all the homers that he hit, but this is a new time, and I think I'd have pretty good success, I think so.

Q: Think you can strike the Babe out?
A: I think so (smile). If I could.

Q: Yankee fans are gonna hate you.
A: That's fine (laugh). They could.

Q: The Subway Series in May?
A: I was here but I didn't pitch in it.

Q: You might have another chance to in September.
A: I hope so.

Q: What did you notice about the Subway Series?
A: A lot of New York fans going back and forth, you can hear it in the stands, "Let's Go Yankees, Let's Go Mets," so it's nice to be able to have that in-city rivalry and to be able to go play against them. It's great for the city so, yeah we love it.

Q: If you're lucky, maybe (Aaron) Judge won't be back for the September Subway Series.
A: I want him to be back, yeah, I want to face him, that'd be awesome.

Q: What did you learn about yourself during your year away from baseball following Tommy John surgery (September 2024)?
A: I learned that no matter what happens, I'm gonna continue to give my best shot, like even if it's not the place that I want to be at at the time, I know that no matter what happens, I have a plan and that the plan's gonna come to fruition. If you really want something, you're gonna be able to put the time and the effort in. I saw the light at the end of the tunnel of what I wanted to come out of the rehab process, so just putting one foot in front of the other and treating the day to day not as, like, monotonous but, like, excited to do it.

Q: What was the emotional low point of that whole experience?
A: I would say it was really not being able to pick up a baseball for about six months at that point. I would say about a couple of months in, I was like, "Damn, I haven't really done this in a long time." It's tough to see the light at the end of the tunnel at that point when you haven't even started throwing yet and you know that there's a whole long process of throwing before you are able to get back into a game ... not kinda sulking away, but not being able to really work out, not really being able to throw a baseball, just kinda sitting there and watching TV. I would say that was kind of a low point 'cause I like to be active and kinda like to have a good time too.

Q: The physical low point?
A: I guess it is kinda what I expected to have, a little bit of elbow soreness, obviously, after the surgery, and flying out the next day and landing. It feels like somebody stabbing you in the elbow, it's not a great feeling. I don't recommend it on anybody, but that's something that I knew would happen, and so I kinda had a plan going in. There was never really a point physically that I was like, "I'm in a really bad spot right now." I'm grateful for that, I had a great surgeon, great rehab staff and I felt they did a really good job taking care of me and setting me up for success.

Q: Where does your poise come from?
A: I'm not sure ... it's kind of who I am as a person. I don't really like to make things too big, or little things too small. I have my faith, and so I really do believe that I'm here for a reason and no matter what happens, it's all gonna turn out OK. I know that baseball's a game, and I'm gonna have a lot of fun while doing it

Q: What drives you?
A: I would say just my love of the game, really. I've been doing this since I was a little kid, and just being grateful for this opportunity. If you told me when I was 5 or 6 years old that I'd be able to do this for a living, I'd be overjoyed. I know that baseball clock is short, so I'm trying to take advantage of every moment that I have, and just be myself out there and have a good time.

Q: What pitch have you made the biggest strides with?
A: I would say my cutter, since it's new. I would say about six months ago we kind of decided this would help a lot against left-handed hitters. And so being able to pick that up pretty quickly was awesome for me and be able to add another tool to my repertoire.

Q: Have you faced Juan Soto in spring training?
A: I have faced Soto, yeah. ... I was able to throw a couple of new pitches to Soto — I think he's the best hitter in the game of baseball, and one of the best hitters ever — and being able to pick his brain after, and, "Hey, what did you see?" His control of the strike zone is otherworldly, so just being able to, like, pick his brain and say like, "Is there anything I can do to make it harder on you?"

Q: How do Soto and Francisco Lindor get along?
A: They get along great. Every time they're in the locker room they get along, talking, having fun, having a good time. I've heard the stuff (smile) on social media and all that stuff, but that's not true in the locker room for us. Just being able to go out there and see those guys compete every day, it's a lot of fun too. We're all pulling on the same rope, just trying to win as many games as we can possibly do, so that's from what I see.

Q: Favorite players growing up.
A: Dustin Pedroia; Pedro Martinez; José Fernández.

Q: Three dinner guests.
A: Jesus; Alexander The Great; Napoleon.

Q: Why Napoleon?
A: I'm interested in war history. I like watching YouTube videos about it, so people that have, like, conquered a lot of territory and kind of done really good in war, those are people that are interesting.

Q: Favorite movie.
A: Saving Private Ryan.

Q: Favorite actor.
A: Leonardo DiCaprio.

Q: Favorite actress.
A: Margot Robbie.

Q: Favorite entertainer.
A: Usher.

Q: Favorite meal.
A: Steak and rice.

Q: Your message to Mets fans?
A: I appreciate all the support that you've given me throughout my career. You guys are the best fans in the world, and we love playing in front of you guys.

Q: New York doesn't scare you, does it?
A: No, I love New York. It is a little bit tougher to play than most places. You gotta have some tough skin, but I love New York, I love the fans. When you're not playing good, they're gonna let you know. That's just how I like it. When I'm playing good, I know I'm playing good. When I'm not playing good, I know when I'm not playing good. I try to be as consistent as I can on the mound and give it my 100 percent every single time I'm out there. There's gonna be good days, and there's gonna be bad days but they're gonna let you know, and I love that.

steve.serby@nypost.com

Mets
45
Wilson

Robert Sabo

SARANT CADILLAC
SUMMER OF CADILLAC
IN STOCK AND READY FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

2026 OPTIQ LUXURY AWD

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES

$259 PER MONTH[1] 24 MONTHS

$4,995 DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS

MSRP $56,890 . stk# 26-0246 No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Mileage charge of 25¢ per mile over ten thousand miles. *Must present this ad for these offers. All leases plus taxes, DMV fees, & 1st month payment. No security deposit required. In stock vehicles only, no dealer. Not everyone will qualify, leases based on very good credit. No prior incentives. Includes $2,000 EV Conquest Rebate. Courtesy Transportation 1,224 Miles . See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 7/31/2026.

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE

2026 LYRIQ LUXURY AWD

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES

$379 PER MONTH[1] 24 MONTHS

$4,995 DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS

MSRP $66,544 .. stk# 26-0309 No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Mileage charge of 25¢ per mile over ten thousand miles. *Must present this ad for these offers. All leases plus taxes, DMV fees, & 1st month payment. No security deposit required. In stock vehicles only, no dealer. Not everyone will qualify, leases based on very good credit. No prior incentives. Includes $2,000 EV Conquest Rebate. Courtesy Transportation 1500 Miles . See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 7/31/2026.

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE

2026 VISTIQ LUXURY AWD

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES

$659 PER MONTH[1] 24 MONTHS

$5,995 DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS

MSRP $80,515..stk# 26-0334 No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Mileage charge of 25¢ per mile over ten thousand miles. *Must present this ad for these offers. All leases plus taxes, DMV fees, & 1st month payment. No security deposit required. In stock vehicles only, no dealer. Not everyone will qualify, leases based on very good credit. No prior incentives. Includes $2,000 EV Conquest Rebate. Courtesy Transportation 1500 Miles . See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 7/31/2026.

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE

2026 XT5 PREMIUM LUXURY AWD

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES

$519 PER MONTH[1] 36 MONTHS

$4,995 DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS

MSRP $59,214. . stk# 26-0518 No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Mileage charge of 25¢ per mile over ten thousand miles. *Must present this ad for these offers. All leases plus taxes, DMV fees, & 1st month payment. No security deposit required. In stock vehicles only, no dealer. Not everyone will qualify, leases based on very good credit. No prior incentives. Includes $2,000 lease loyalty rebate. . Courtesy Transportation 1200 Miles . See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 7/31/2026.

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE

2026 CT4 LUXURY AWD

$3,500 SAVINGS

3.9% FINANCING UP TO 36 MONTHS

MSRP $41,819. No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Includes $500 conquest rebate* Must present this ad for these offers. No security deposit required. In stock vehicles only, no dealer. No prior incentives. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 7/31/2026. Does not include V series or Blackwing models.

2026 CT5 PREMIUM LUXURY AWD

$3,500 SAVINGS

3.9% FINANCING UP TO 36 MONTHS

MSRP $54,995. No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra. Includes $500 conquest rebate* Must present this ad for these offers. . No security deposit required. In stock vehicles only, no dealer. No prior incentives. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 7/31/2026. Does not include V series or Blackwing models.

SARANT CADILLAC
SarantCadillac.com

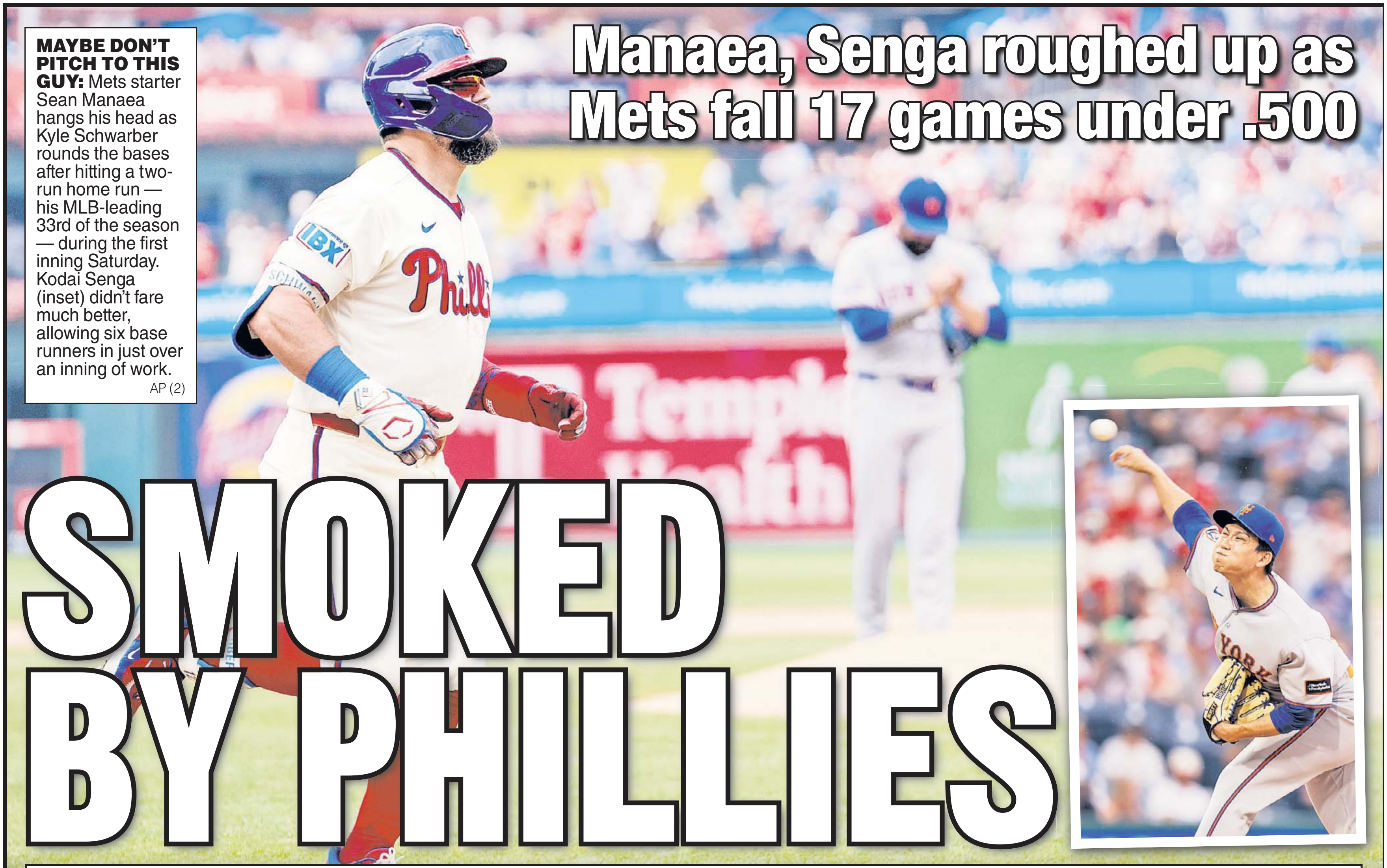
4339 Hempstead Tpke
Farmingdale
New York 11735

516.986.3175
Fri-Sat 9–6
Sun 11–4
Mon-Thurs 9–7

SCAN ME

Manaea, Senga roughed up as Mets fall 17 games under .500

SMOKED BY PHILLIES



MAYBE DON'T PITCH TO THIS GUY: Mets starter Sean Manaea hangs his head as Kyle Schwarber rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run — his MLB-leading 33rd of the season — during the first inning Saturday. Kodai Senga (inset) didn't fare much better, allowing six base runners in just over an inning of work.

AP (2)

By MIKE PUMA

PHILADELPHIA — If Saturday served as a showcase of two underperforming Mets pitchers, consider nobody interested.

PHILLIES 6
METS 1
Boxscore Page 58

Sean Manaea was very hittable over his short start, and Kodai Senga behind him didn't exactly inspire confidence. Both pitchers are available heading to the trade deadline. Proceed at your own risk if you are a team needing a back-of-the-rotation arm. Maybe better yet: Don't proceed.

The Mets' uninspiring afternoon — with the game's start time moved up an hour because of weather concerns — ended with a 6-1 loss to the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park. The game unfortunately resumed following a 48-minute rain delay in the seventh inning.

Manaea and Senga combined to allow all six runs before the rain delay and didn't receive more than a morsel of support from the lineup, which produced only three hits. The Mets fell 17 games below .500 to match their season worst.

The Mets already traded one struggling pitcher, sending David Peterson to the Cubs last month for first baseman Cole Mathis, but that Manaea and Senga are still owed significant dollars may leave the Mets stuck with them.

Manaea is just beyond the halfway point of a three-year, $75 million contract. Senga, who owns an 8.85 ERA, is still owed roughly $20 million through next season.

Teams interested in starting pitching can pursue Freddy Peralta, another underperformer, albeit one who is earning only $8 million this season and is headed toward free agency.

Manaea, who owns a 4.74 ERA, surrendered four earned runs on seven hits and two walks with seven strikeouts over 4 ²⁄₃ innings. It was the third time in his past five starts that he failed to pitch beyond five innings.

Interim manager Andy Green cited the uncomfortable, humid conditions, but Manaea offered no excuses.

"It was hot, it was muggy, it was all those things," Manaea said. "But at the end of the day I have just got to go out there and perform. We're all performing in the same thing."

Over 1 ¹⁄₃ innings, Senga allowed six base runners — three hits and three walks — with two earned runs. Any thoughts that he can thrive as a reliever have dissipated with two shaky appearances in his last three. Senga was bounced from the starting rotation last month.

On this day, the right-hander hit 99 mph with his fastball, but that didn't translate into success.

"His stuff is good," Green said. "There are better outcomes needed, and he's aware of that. He wants that and we want that from him. But when you watch his stuff come out of his hand, it's really good."

Kyle Schwarber continued his rampage against the Mets with a two-run homer against Manaea in the first inning that produced the game's first scoring. Schwarber — who had a three-homer game during the Mets visit last month — leads MLB with 33 homers.

The Mets' misery included three errors, one of which Francisco Lindor committed on a throw, continuing a season of defensive lapses for the perennial Gold Glove contender at shortstop.

"It's not to the level I expect myself and not to the level that people expect us here," Lindor said of his defense. "For me defense is the most important thing, and it's been not good at all."

mpuma@nypost.com

More Mets / Page 66

ON DECK: at Phillies

Sunday, 1:35 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Nolan McLean

2026 stats:
6-6, 3.52 ERA
Career vs. PHI:
1-1, 0.68 ERA
Last start:
July 10 vs. BOS;
6.0 IP, 5 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

34%	20%	16%
Sinker	4-Seamer	Sweeper

RHP Alan Rangel

2026 stats:
0-2, 4.19 ERA
Career vs. NYM:
0-1, 9.00 ERA
Last start:
July 8 at CIN;
3.1 IP, 3 H, 3 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

36%	34%	17%
4-Seamer	Changeup	Slider

UP NEXT

MONDAY: at Brewers, 7:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Freddy Peralta vs. RHP Brandon Sproat

TUESDAY: at Brewers, 7:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
LHP Zach Thornton vs. RHP Jacob Misiorowski

INJURY REPORT

■ **Luis Robert Jr.** might be activated from the injured list this week in Milwaukee. The outfielder has been sidelined since April 27 with a lumbar spine disc herniation.

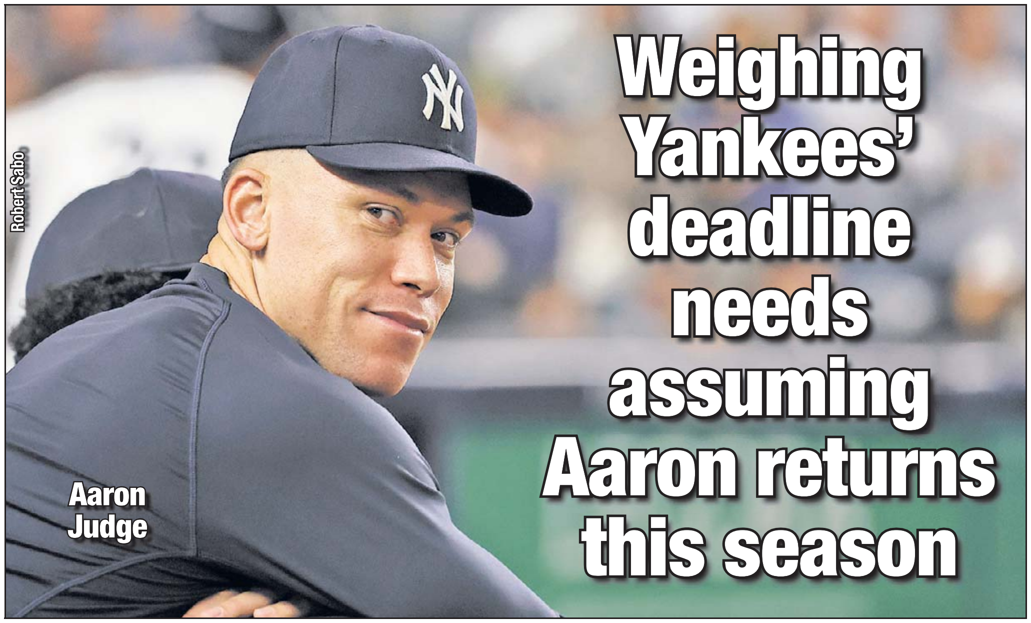
Jon Heyman

INSIDE MLB

jheyman@nypost.com

Judge factor

Weighing Yankees' deadline needs assuming Aaron returns this season



Aaron Judge

Robert Sabo

AFTER A month and a half watching the Yankees struggle badly (and hit only sporadically) without their best player, we still don't really know anything concrete about Aaron Judge's timetable.

One thing is becoming clear, however: The Yankees need offensive help. (But before we get to our hitting suggestions for the deadline, here's what we're surmising about this unhappy situation.)

1. It isn't a good sign Judge still isn't ready for baseball activity after they reimaged the affected rib area following six-plus weeks on the shelf;

2. The Yankees seem hapless bordering on hopeless without him.

Judge and manager Aaron Boone both said they believe Judge will be back this season — "definitely," Judge asserted — but neither would provide a timetable. It's guesswork for now as the Yankees continue to provide medical information dispensed through an eyedropper, but it's certainly concerning Judge said they "shied away" from the stationary bike and are limiting him to an inclined treadmill for now.

The likelihood of them winning the World Series without Judge (and with this same lineup) seems close to nil considering that entering Saturday they're 18-20 and look even worse since he's been out. Their 4.16 runs per game in his absence is 23rd, their hitting with runners in scoring position (.195) 29th and their on-base percentage (.290) and strikeout percentage (26 percent) dead last.

Assuming Judge does make it back this year — and September might be as good a guess as August now — they still have an opportunity to reach the World Series in the historically atrocious American League. That's if they make the right moves.

They seek bullpen help (Mason Miller would be a godsend if available) and perhaps rotation depth depending on returns for Max Fried and Carlos Rodón. But hitting is the No. 1 issue today.

Big-money positional players Rafael Devers, Francisco Lindor, Willy Adames and Matt Chapman aren't coming since owners are aiming for a salary cap, and they aren't great positional fits anyway.

The Yankees could consider Mickey Moniak, Taylor Ward or Daulton Varsho if they become available. But a catcher who hits is the most obvious need since Austin Wells is hitting .153.

The obvious choice is Ryan Jeffers, who's killing it in his walk year, but the Twins are in the wild-card race. They should also make a call to the Rockies about All-Star catcher Hunter Goodman, but Colorado's reluctant to trade a star with three-plus years of control.

A solid backup like Luis Torrens or Christian Vázquez may be the way they go, but that doesn't solve the Yankees' severe hitting issue. They need to aim higher and look into Shea Langeliers, Samuel Basallo, Adley Rutschman and Francisco Alvarez.

The choice here would be the All-Star Langeliers, who has 22 homers. Though he has two more years of control, the non-contending A's are open to anything. Langeliers has the personality to play in New York (and not just because he's named after Shea Stadium).

The A's are doing a nice job locking up young position players, but attempts to do so with superstar 1B Nick Kurtz (they offered him $130M) and Langeliers (they offered around $80M) went nowhere.

Nobody can come close to making up for Judge, the game's best offensive force. But something has to change, even if it's just to help keep them afloat until their captain gets back — assuming he does.

Star Skubal may stay in Detroit, but not past '26

TARIK Skubal seems much more likely to stay now that the Tigers have won 10 of 13 games and moved into the tight (but sad) AL wild-card race.

"They could win the division," one rival GM said.

Either way, the Tigers have almost no chance to keep him long-term, and that's even if owners get their way and a salary cap becomes reality.

That won't happen — not after offering him $75 million over four years a week before **Garrett Crochet** more than doubled that, then taking him to arbitration with the biggest gap ever ($13M).

Skubal is such a team player he did bosses a favor by acceding to their request on the eve of his hearing to call **Framber Valdez** to help convince Valdez to sign with the Tigers.

"Skubal has been a great soldier," one Tigers person said.

That's true by all accounts. But he will be gone in free agency (if he isn't traded first).

And he may go quickly in free agency since first, there will be a feeding frenzy, and second, bigger free agents won't want to wait around to see if there are new free agent rules.

The Rays, Cubs and Braves are thought to be among the possibilities if Skubal is traded

The Cubs also like **Freddy Peralta**, no surprise since **Craig Counsell** managed Peralta in Milwaukee. Peralta's having a rough year, but some attribute that to the Mets' bad defense.

The Yankees do not seem in on Peralta for now.

The Yankees have company in the catching market as Dodgers star catcher **Will Smith** has been shut down with a neck injury.

Smith is signed to a 10-year deal and is MLB's best catcher, so **Luis Torrens** or another fine backup will probably do for the Dodgers.

The Angels are expected to make top starters **Reid Detmers** and José Soriano available. But while they have a new GM (**John Mozeliak** is interim), Angels owner **Arte Moreno** has long resisted trading stars.

How Amazin's could help out Bombers

THE YANKEES are showing zero interest in available Mets star **Francisco Lindor** because they seem pretty comfortable with **José Caballero** plus No. 1 prospect **George Lombard Jr.** closing in on a call-up, never mind that they wouldn't touch the $174 million owed through 2031 for Lindor.

But the Yankees and Mets still could match up, as **Luis Torrens**, **Francisco Alvarez** and ex-Yankees **Clay Holmes** and **Luke Weaver** all would help.

The New York teams historically haven't made many trades, but the Mets are in no position to be picky now, and the Yankees aren't likely to give up the next **Pete Crow-Armstrong**. Trade deadlines are a **Brian Cashman** specialty and the best players he gave up as prospects might be relievers **Mark Melancon** and **Tyler Clippard** (see Sherman story), a long way from the **Fred McGriff**, **Doug Drabek** and **Jay Buhner** days.

Lombard isn't going anywhere anyway, but the Yankees have a decent prospect stash. **Ben Grable** with his unique fastball has leaped into the top pitching group of **Elmer Rodriguez**, **Carlos Lagrange** and **Ben Hess**.

AUG 3
THE WALKING DEADLINE

Examining three decades of Cashman deals in trade crunch time

IN THE DEADLINE OF DUTY

Joel Sherman

Hardball

BRIAN CASHMAN has completed more than 100 trade deadline deals since becoming the Yankees general manager in 1998.

It is hard to come to peace with exactly what defines such a transaction. For example, I would include the early deal in June 2000 for David Justice as a deadline deal and also swaps made through August before the waiver deadline was eliminated after the 2018 season. But my standard would not include the purchase of a contract without a player moving the other way.

Still, when you add it up in just about any fashion, Cashman possibly has made more of these deals than anyone in history — while appreciating that what a deadline deal is can be fuzzy. There is enough volume over three decades that Cashman has provided bread crumbs about how he will handle the market he is in yet again.

He will trade with any team, since he has made a player-for-player deadline deal with every other club except the Braves — and last July he sold the rights to Carlos Carrasco to Atlanta.

This year, with the Mets in sell mode and potentially having items of interest to the Yankees such as Clay Holmes, Francisco Lindor, Luis Torrens and Luke Weaver, it should be noted that the New York clubs have only made one deadline deal in Cashman's tenure — when the Yankees sent prospects Jason Anderson, Ryan Bicondoa and Anderson García for Armando Benítez on July 16, 2003. That was a trade Cashman liked so much that he traded Benítez three weeks later to Seattle for Jeff Nelson.

With so many vying for playoff position and, thus, potentially a dearth of sellers, there is a growing belief that contenders might have to trade from major league depth with each other, as the Yanks did in 2022, flipping Jordan Montgomery to the Cardinals for Harrison Bader.

The Tigers' surge late in the first half made it more unlikely that they will trade Tarik Skubal and it is hard right now to see anyone else on that no-brainer superstar level moving. And even if someone did, Cashman has generally not acquired that type.

He strongly pursued Randy Johnson in 1998, but decided he would not part with both Hideki Irabu and Mike Lowell in the same package. Cashman's greatest fear was that Johnson would go to Cleveland. Instead, the big lefty was moved to Houston, pitched great, but the Astros still lost in the division series. The Yankees, including beating Cleveland in the ALCS, completed one of the greatest seasons ever with 125 total wins and a championship. After that season — with World Series MVP Scott Brosius having been extended to cover third base — Cashman made arguably his worst trade as a GM (though not at the deadline) when he sent Lowell to the Marlins for three pitching prospects who all failed.

The superstar Cashman came the closest to obtaining was Cliff Lee in 2010. There was an agreement in place to send David Adams, Zach McAllister and Jesús Montero to Seattle. But upon medical review, the Mariners stated they were concerned with Adams' right ankle injury. They asked for one of two prospects as a replacement, but Cashman rejected it, stating the Yankees projected Eduardo Núñez as a starting shortstop and Ivan Nova as a strong starter. So Lee instead was traded to the Rangers, who eliminated the defending champion Yankees in the ALCS. With Lee, the Yanks' repeat chances would have gone up dramatically.

The Yankees also were among the clubs willing to dangle major prospects in 2023 for Shohei Ohtani before Los Angeles decided not to trade him.

"We were on Ohtani and he didn't get moved from the Angels," Cashman said. "So I am willing to play on the big game and the small game [at this time of year]."

As for if there is regret in not having done the Lee deal, Cashman said, "Obviously, now. I'm making those recommendations and it is easier to go back and say, 'I wish we did it.' There are many I can say, 'I wish we didn't do it,' because after the fact you have the whole landscape of information of how it turned out. So, yeah, certainly Lee would be one, and there's many more."

Conversely, Cashman does not have anything that looks like dealing Pete Crow-Armstrong for Javier Baez either. Perhaps the best prospects he ever dealt at the deadline were Tyler Clippard and Mark Melancon, who both had long, distinguished careers as relievers (Cashman has been around long enough that he actually re-acquired Clippard at a different deadline). But if that is the worst of it for 100-plus trades, that is far from catastrophic.

Cashman is known for protecting the best of his prospect base annually and relentlessly sticking with discussions and often ending up trading more quantity over quality. But he insisted, "A lot of [prospects traded] we thought were really good at the time and they were in demand for a reason. The industry valued them too, but it's just such a hard sport. You just don't know what's going to work out and what's not going to work out."

Historically, Cashman has stayed away from catchers. The one significant add was Iván Rodríguez in 2008 (from Detroit for Kyle Farnsworth). Rodríguez performed poorly for the Yankees and Cashman made at least a loose policy that taking on a catcher in midstream is particularly difficult because of how valuable a built relationship with pitchers is. Yet, there is theory and need — and the Yankees are very much in the market for an in-season catcher acquisition this year.

The Yankees are also pursuing multiple relievers, perhaps a starter and maybe a middle infielder. It is not unfamiliar for Cashman to attack multiple areas in one year. He did so with up-and-down results last year with the additions of David Bednar, Jake Bird, José Caballero, Camillo Doval, Ryan McMahon, Amed Rosario and Austin Slater.

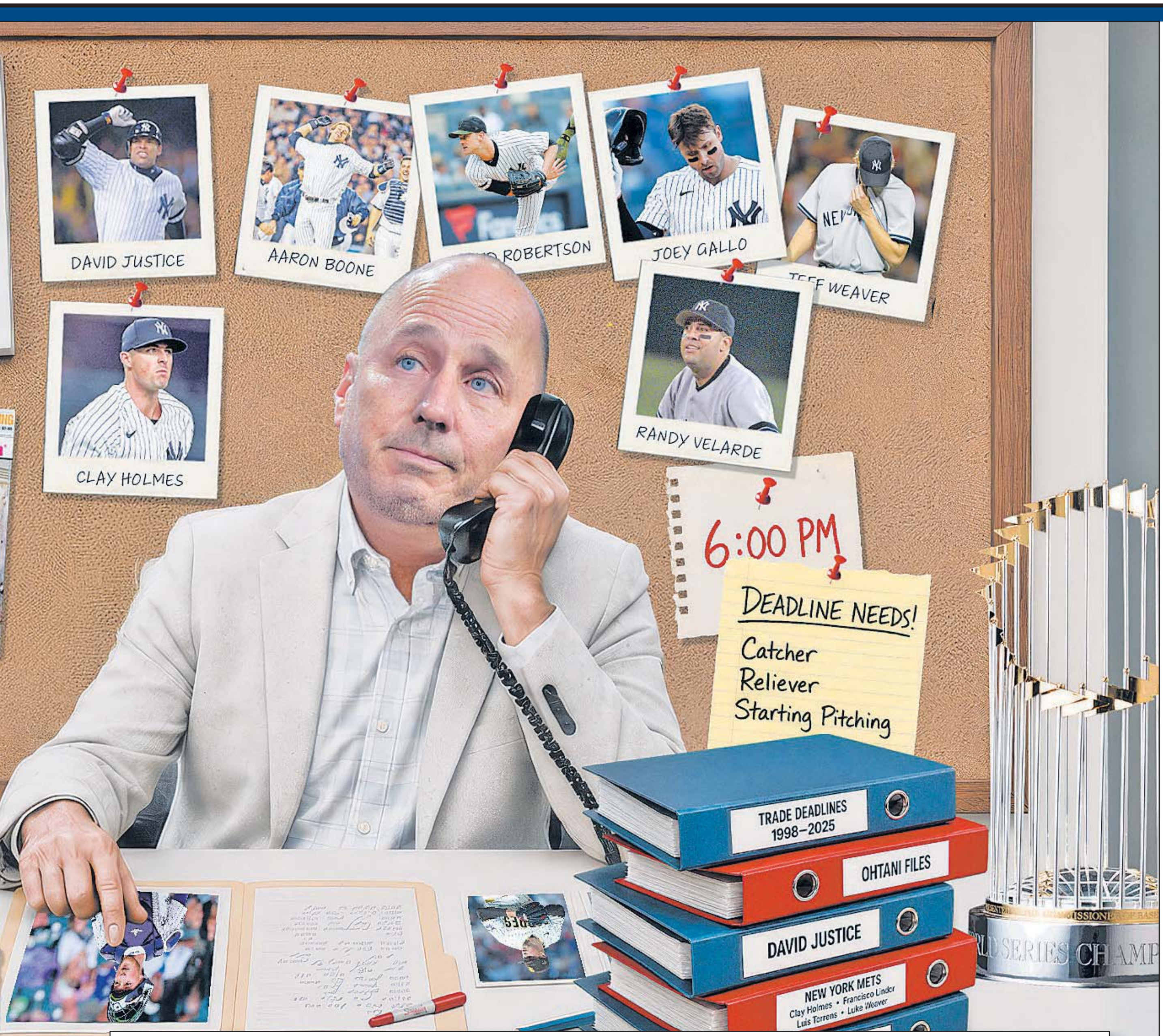
The two that stand out for best group effort at the deadline were:

2014: When the Yanks failed to make the playoffs, but Chris Capuano, Chase Headley, Brandon McCarthy and Martín Prado significantly improved a flawed group.

2018: When a really good Yankees team got better toward 100 wins (but only a wild card) by adding Zack Britton, J.A. Happ, Lance Lynn, Andrew McCutchen and Luke Voit.

If I were going to list the five best deadline deals by Cashman, they would be:

1 Traded Zach Day, Ricky Ledee and Jake Westbrook to Cleveland for Justice on June 29, 2000. Westbrook notably put together a few strong mid-rotation sea-



CASH IN HIS CHIPS: Brian Cashman has made more than 100 deals ahead of the trade deadline in his three decades as GM of the Yankees. Some have been homers, some have been swings and misses. He'll look to connect again over the next three weeks.

NY Post Design

sons for Cleveland. But Justice had a .977 OPS in 2000 for the Yankees and hit a three-run homer against Seattle as the key in a pennant-clincherthat sent the Yankees to the 2000 Subway World Series.

2 Traded Diego Castillo and Hoy Park to Pittsburgh for Clay Holmes on July 26, 2021. Neither Castillo nor Park amounted to much while Holmes went from failing with the Pirates to a durable, excellent two-time All-Star out of the Yankees pen.

It is possible another reliever obtained from the Pirates, David Bednar, has a chance to rise on this list with the way he has pitched the last year. And another reliever, Dámaso Marte, obtained from Pittsburgh, never pitched well in the regular season as a Yankee, but was a difference-maker in the playoff run to a title in 2009.

3 Traded Brandon Claussen and Charlie Manning to Cincinnati for Aaron Boone on July 31, 2003. Claussen pitched well in his lone Yankees start in a highly publicized Subway game against the Mets and later that month the Yankees maximized him for Boone. Boone was ordinary as a Yankee and actually did not start ALCS Game 7, but hit the 11th-inning, walk-off homer to clinch the pennant over Boston. He blew out his knee that offseason playing pickup basketball, which led to the Yanks obtaining Alex Rodriguez. But the homer, one of the biggest in franchise history, certainly is part of why Boone is the Yankee manager now.

4 Traded Ramón Ramirez and Eduardo Sierra to Colorado for Shawn Chacón on July 28. 2005. These Yankees fell eight games under .500 in early May and Cashman insisted no matter how bad things got, the team had stripped its system so much in recent years going for it that he would not use the best of what was left to try to save the season. The tiny deal for Chacón was mammoth as he produced a 2.85 ERA in 14 games (12 starts) to help stabilize the rotation (along with a magic run by Aaron Small).

5 Traded Clippard, Ian Clarkin, Tito Polo and Blake Rutherford to the White Sox for Todd Frazier, Tommy Kahnle and David Robertson on July 19, 2017. It is by far the best multiplayer, go-for-it deal Cashman has made as he acquired three veterans who helped a surprise run to ALCS Game 7.

Honorable mention acquisitions: Bobby Abreu (2006), Alfonso Soriano (2013), Anthony Rizzo (2021), Kerry Wood (2010).

The five worst deadline deals by Cashman:

1 Just about anything that had to do with the A's and starting pitching. The A's were part of a three-team trade on July 5, 2002, in which the Yankees sent Jason Arnold, John-Ford Griffin and Ted Lilly to the A's, who notably dealt Jeremy Bonderman and Carlos Peña to the Tigers, who sent Jeff Weaver to the Yankees. Weaver over two years produced the worst ERA (5.35) in franchise history (minimum 200 innings) plus, in the only postseason game in which he ever appeared for the Yankees, allowed a walk-off homer in Game 4 of the World Series, which was the pivot to the Marlins rallying to win the title.

In 2017, the Yankees traded for Sonny Gray from Oakland with the understanding that the righty wanted to come to New York, only to learn years later that Gray did not want to do so. In 2022, the Yanks obtained Frankie Montas from Oakland. Historically, you can have a strong argument on if Montas was more of a disaster as a Yankee or a Met.

2 Traded Ezequiel Durán, Trevor Hauver, Glenn Otto and Josh Smith to Texas for Joey Gallo and Joey Rodriguez on July 29, 2021 . Gallo was a White Whale for Cashman, since his baseball ops group had pursued him for years, not appreciating his combination of not-New York temperament and swing and miss would make him a horrible Yankee. Duran and Smith have become good major leaguers.

3 Not enough for Carlos Beltrán and, especially, Aroldis Chapman and Andrew Miller in 2016. This was the only time the Yankees have sold at the deadline under Cashman and the only meaningful prospect acquired in multiple packages was Gleyber Torres. Chapman was essential in the Cubs winning the 2016 World Series and Miller in getting Cleveland to that World Series.

4 The 2001 trade deadline. The Yankees obtained in separate trades Sterling Hitchcock, Randy Velarde, Jay Witasick and Mark Wohlers. All were bad in the regular season and (aside from Hitchcock in the World Series vs. Arizona) just about unplayable in the postseason. For a team that lost the Fall Classic in seven games, that was among the difference-makers.

5 Traded Drew Henson, Jackson Melian, Brian Reith and Ed Yarnall to Cincinnati for Denny Neagle on July 12, 2000. Yarnall was arguably the piece the Yankees wanted most when they traded Mike Lowell to the Marlins, while there were times in the late 1990s during which the Yanks were convinced that Henson and Melian would be cornerstones. Neagle was a bad fit and bad pitcher for the Yankees.

joel.sherman@nypost.com

Reliever added to 40-man

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The Yankees opted to keep Bradley Hanner, a Triple-A reliever who has moved a step closer to a call-up.

The 27-year-old Hanner used an opt-out clause in his contract that the Yankees nullified Saturday by adding him to the 40-man roster and immediately optioning him. Thus, the righty remains in the organization and, at the moment, with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, for whom he has logged a 1.99 ERA with 50 strikeouts in 40 $^2/_3$ innings this season.

YANKS NOTES

A career minor leaguer in his seventh season, Hanner signed with the Yankees as a minor league free agent in December after stalling at Triple-A in Cleveland's system. He has been excellent with SWB, frequently used in multi-inning bursts (while maxing out at 37 pitches in an outing) and allowing little (1.156 WHIP). Hanner is a four-pitch reliever who does not throw particularly hard but induces many whiffs with his sweeper.

The Yankees are expected to use the trade deadline to upgrade their bullpen, but Hanner has become a clearer option.

Also on the 40-man roster and pitching with SWB are Yovanny Cruz, Kervin Castro and Yerry De los Santos.

➤ Saturday's game in The Bronx against the Dodgers was postponed, creating a split-admission doubleheader Sunday. The first game begins at 12:35 p.m.

Fans with paid tickets for Saturday's game can use them for the rescheduled afternoon game or exchange them for tickets to a similar regular-season game. Those tickets will not be valid for the second game, which is scheduled for 7:20 p.m.

➤ **Max Fried** (elbow bone bruise) "looked really good," manager Aaron Boone said, in his first rehab outing with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on Friday and came out of it feeling well.

SHORT OF

Volpe's SS starts drying up with Caballero in driver's seat as Lombard looms

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Hitters at the bottom of the roster typically take at-bats in pregame sim games, essentially serving as pawns against rehabbing pitchers several hours before the start of real games.

So it felt notable that Anthony Volpe (along with Ali Sánchez) stepped into the box against Clarke Schmidt on Saturday afternoon in The Bronx.

Before the game scheduled for Saturday night was postponed by rain, Volpe was set to be out of the lineup for a second straight game. Presuming a nod in one end of Sunday's doubleheader, he likely will start in one game of this series; just as he started in one game of the previous series in Washington; just as he started in one game in the series at Tampa Bay that preceded Washington.

There are a pair of Shortstop Watches going on, both with George Lombard Jr. and the Yankees' trade deadline. But at the moment, José Caballero is separating himself as the shortstop receiving the bulk of playing time.

Manager Aaron Boone still called it a "day-to-day" situation, but there is no denying that Caballero is winning the battle most of the days.

During Friday's series-opening loss to the Dodgers, Caballero went 0-for-4 but still contributed a pair of head-turning plays. He robbed a hit from Kyle Tucker by ranging up the middle, gloving the ball with a lunging stab and finishing the play with a spin and throw. Later, he made a nice basket catch in shallow center field with his back to home plate to take away a bloop single from Dalton Rushing.

His defense at shortstop has been solid, and his arm is better than Volpe's. Neither has hit enough to firmly seize the job, but Caballero (.688 OPS) has been the slightly better option than Volpe (.668). That's particularly true of late, with Volpe slashing .222/.276/.222 in his past 10 games — perhaps a reflection of a hitter's numbers suffering amid sporadic playing time.

"I think both guys have come in with a focus and are ready to play and all hands on deck," Boone said after Saturday's game was rained out. "In both cases, I feel like [they] have a very team-first attitude, and that's the way we need it."

There are no known plans for Volpe to see time at another position. Boone cited Caballero's experience as a utilityman in dictating him switching positions when a need in the outfield or at second or third base arises, leaving Volpe to play shortstop. Those instances, though, largely have dried up since Trent Grisham and Ryan McMahon returned from injury, giving the Yankees more stability and less need of a utility player. Thus, Caballero's time elsewhere and Volpe's time on the field have dipped.

Such a development is significant considering the Yankees watched Volpe win the everyday shortstop job in spring training 2023 and have rarely challenged him since. The Derek Jeter-loving New Jerseyan played in 472 of 486 games from 2023-25, a constant presence with a bat that did not develop as hoped.

It is possible that, at some point this season, Lombard becomes the new hope at shortstop.

The 21-year-old, who had begun to conquer Triple-A competition before suffering a pair of finger sprains in mid-June, returned to action Friday and went 2-for-3 with a home run and a walk for Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. He also had launched a homer in each of his rehab games in the Florida Complex League, so the top prospect may be announcing that his bat is ready.

Boone said "it's possible" that Lombard can become a factor this season and acknowledged that "we're having those conversations internally" regarding how much the club will have to see from Lombard before a promotion — which would arrive in the midst of a playoff chase for a team with World Series hopes.

"It's no secret how highly we think of George," Boone said of Lombard, who could be used as a trade piece for a difference-maker, though such a blockbuster would be a surprise. "He's just getting back now from a fairly short IL stint. Had a good game [Friday] night, obviously, and so he's certainly more and more in his development pushing himself into the conversation."

msanchez@nypost.com

Montefiore Einstein Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

TIME

SQUASHING ANT': Anthony Volpe, reacting after a July 5 fielding error, has seen his opportunities to man shortstop shrink in recent weeks. In place of the one-time everyday shortstop is utility player José Caballero, reaching to field a grounder July 9, who has hit marginally better and made plays in the field. Robert Sabo; Imagn Images

Montefiore Einstein
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

Two legendary New York institutions. One team.
Montefiore Einstein
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

INJURY REPORT

- **Clarke Schmidt** (Tommy John surgery recovery) faced hitters for the first time since going under the knife last year. The righty threw 15 pitches.

ON DECK

Gm 1 vs. Dodgers

Sunday, 12:35 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Cam Schlittler

2026 stats: 9-5, 2.05 ERA

Career vs. LAD: First Appearance

Last start: July 11, at WAS

RHP Yoshinobu Yamamoto

2026 stats: 9-6, 2.85 ERA

Career vs. NYY: 0-1, 3.38 ERA

Last start: July 11, vs. ARI

Gm 2 vs. Dodgers

Sunday, 7:20 p.m., NBC/Peacock, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

TBD

2026 stats: —

Career vs. LAD: —

Last start: —

TBD

2026 stats: —

Career vs. NYY: —

Last start: —

UP NEXT

MONDAY: vs. Pirates, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
RHP Will Warren
vs. RHP Braxton Ashcraft

Judge must be 'asymptomatic' for next step

By DAN MARTIN

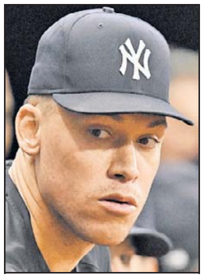
Aaron Judge was finally placed on the 60-day injured list Saturday, mostly a procedural move to free up a spot on the 40-man roster.

But it was another reminder of just how much time Judge will miss due to a fractured right rib that's sidelined him since the end of May.

And even after Judge underwent more testing Wednesday, which showed some healing, he's still not able to resume baseball activities.

Aaron Boone said Saturday that Dr. Gregory Pearl, the rib specialist who gave Judge the initial diagnosis, agreed he'll still be limited, with the manager adding Judge needs to be "asymptomatic" before he can resume upper-body workouts.

When that happens is anyone's guess, although Boone said there was some encouragement in that Judge's pain has gone from "sharp" to "more dull."



AARON JUDGE

All of this means the Yankees will have to survive for some time longer, as he figures to need at least several weeks after he's healthy to get back into the lineup.

It's possible he won't be back until September, and there's no guarantee he'll be at full strength. That means the questions surrounding the Yankees — and their lineup — won't be going away anytime soon.

The Yankees have continued to be mediocre at best in his absence.

They are just 18-20 since Judge got hurt after opening the season 36-23.

That drop-off brings back memories of 2023, when the Yankees missed the playoffs largely because Judge was sidelined with a torn toe ligament after slamming into the wall at Dodger Stadium.

Boone has said this roster is deeper than the one three years ago and that outside of a stretch when the Yankees lost nine of 10 from late June to early July, "for the most part, we've played well."

But cracks have become apparent.

It was true again in the first game back from the All-Star break Friday, when it scored just one run in a loss to the Dodgers in The Bronx.

Here's a look at how the lineup has fared in Judge's absence:

Since Judge's last game May 31, they've gotten solid production from Trent Grisham, who has an .894 OPS in that stretch.

It's the highest mark on the team, but the center fielder still is impacted by the strained right hamstring that landed him on the IL just over a month ago.

The effects of that were seen Friday, when Grisham was thrown out at home trying to score on Ben Rice's eighth-inning double.

As for Rice, who hasn't been the MVP-level force he had been with Judge in the lineup, he nonetheless has put up an OPS of .864 without him.

Paul Goldschmidt's production has dipped, largely because he's playing much more than the Yankees anticipated, with Judge and Giancarlo Stanton out. But his .758 OPS has not been an issue.

Though Jasson Domínguez hasn't been able to secure an everyday job, even without Judge available, he's been somewhat of a threat.

The culprits for the Yankees lineup issues arguably begin with All-Star Cody Bellinger, who had an .855 OPS before Judge got hurt and just a .622 OPS in his absence.

Like the Yankees overall, Bellinger was impressive in the immediate aftermath of the loss of Judge, but has fallen off considerably since the middle of June.

Like Bellinger, Jazz Chisholm Jr. held up just fine for nearly three weeks after Judge went down but has a .554 OPS since June 19.

Over that same stretch, José Caballero, who had a .735 OPS on June 19, has put up an OPS of .553.

At third base, Ryan McMahon has actually warmed up since early June, but Amed Rosario has tanked, with an .843 OPS pre-Judge injury and .590 after.

And then there's Austin Wells, whose nightmare season has the Yankees looking for a new catcher.

dan.martin@nypost.com

More Yankees / P. 66

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

MATCHUPS

By ETHAN SEARS

Here we are, 103 matches later.

The biggest sporting event on the planet takes place Sunday at 3 p.m. at MetLife Stadium when Spain faces Argentina in the World Cup final. After five wondrous weeks across three countries and 16 cities, featuring Scots drinking and Cape Verdean joy, English angst and Norwegian rowing, it is the first final in history to feature the reigning European champion against the reigning South American champion.

Spain has cut a clean path to the final, outscoring opposition 13-1 across seven games while rarely looking at serious risk. Argentina relied on last-minute heroics to beat Cape Verde, Egypt and England, and needed extra time to get past Switzerland, and yet has retained an aura of invincibility all the same.

The Post breaks down the matchups in the World Cup final.

WHEN SPAIN HAS THE BALL

"We need to be faithful, loyal to our football idea," manager **Luis de la Fuente** said Friday. That means using unending possession, short and deliberate passes and aggressive counterpressing to suffocate the opposition.

Spain's midfield, with **Rodri** and **Fabián Ruiz** playing behind Dani Olmo, has dominantly executed that vision all tournament, particularly in the knockout stage. While there are worries about **Lamine Yamal**'s hamstring after the winger received a knock in the semifinal, La Roja's play in the wide areas has set up much of its scoring until now, and will continue to be key.

Argentina is vulnerable there, with right back **Nahuel Molina** getting picked on for England's only goal in the semifinal and left back **Nicolás Tagliafico** having an up-and-down tournament. The interplay between Yamal and **Pedro Porro** on the right, as well as **Marc Cucurella** and **Alex Baena** on the left, will be huge for Spain. If they can set up crosses to the back post with numbers in the box — an area in which it has excelled, and something Argentina has struggled to defend — Spain will be cooking with gas.

Meanwhile, Spain's midfield and the rest of its defense — with its center backs and defensive midfielders setting up in a box and quickly winning balls back — can keep a stranglehold on the game if not addressed. Argentina's physicality in defense presents a potential obstacle, and Spain will need to keep its head. An early yellow card to someone like **Leandro Paredes** or **Cristian Romero**, though, could neuter that.

For Argentina, much of this will be about surviving — and taking advantage of the chances it can get to break.

WHEN ARGENTINA HAS THE BALL

No one has found a way to break Spain's grip on ball possession, and it doesn't seem likely to be Argentina.

That doesn't mean La Albiceleste don't have potential ways through the counterpress, or to score.

Argentina can strike fast in transition, and its ladder passing structure — breaking defensive lines by using vertical passing between three players with the second playing in between — looks designed to beat Spain's high press. The extensive experience this team has had playing together, and under manager **Lionel Scaloni**, also matters so much on stages like this. In moments that require fast decisions, everyone knows where their teammates are going.

Spain, though, has been the best defense in this tournament. It's got the lowest expected goals against, the fewest shots allowed, the most clean sheets. Much of that is because of the way it holds on to the ball, but center backs **Pau Cubarsí** and **Aymeric Laporte** have been the best duo in the World Cup too — Cubarsí has been so good that it can be argued that Yamal isn't the best teenager in Spain's lineup.

Set pieces, where Argentina has scored three times from corners and twice from direct free kicks, might be an area where it can create something.

Argentina's X factor, of course, is Messi. His spatial awareness and anticipation are better than any player in history, not to mention his skill with the ball at his feet. He can always make things happen, or see opportunities before they open up.

INTANGIBLES

The weather at kickoff is forecast at 82 degrees, feeling like 85, and sunny with air quality that — while better than it's been — won't be great. Spain has played outdoors just once in the tournament, at night in Guadalajara, Mexico. Argentina has done so more often, but its games in Kansas City, Mo. and Miami have also been at night. The lack of experience in the heat will make it a major factor for both teams, and whether the advantage tilts toward Argentina, which has dealt with it more, or Spain, which doesn't have quite the same mileage having played in it less, is a matter of opinion.

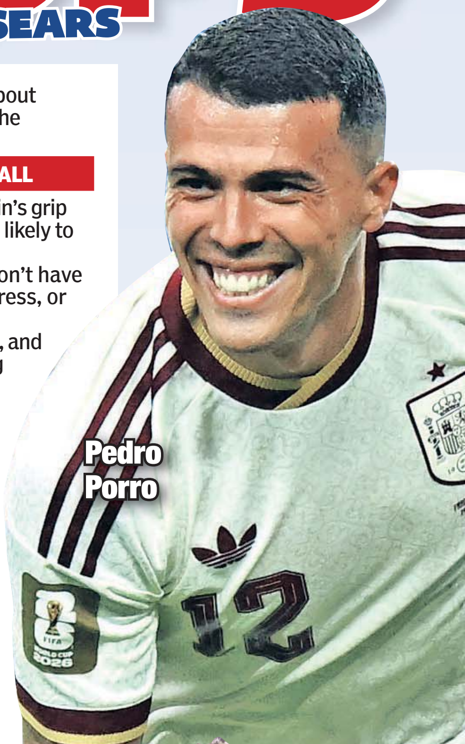
As for fan makeup, expectation is it will be a largely Argentine crowd. That said, the final tends to be a largely corporate atmosphere, and that's likely the case this time too, given exorbitant ticket prices.

PREDICTION

Spain 2-1, on penalties.

Julián Alvarez

Enzo Fernández


Pedro Porro

Rodri

Getty Images (3); AP

England bests France in wild 3rd-place game

BRITISH INVASION: Jude Bellingham celebrates the last of 10 goals in England's 6-4 win over France, giving Harry Kane (inset) and his Three Lions teammates a bronze medal.

AP (2)

Bronze mettle

By ALANIS THAMES

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Bukayo Saka scored three goals to lead England to a 6-4 win over France for third place in the World Cup, while Kylian Mbappé surpassed Lionel Messi's career tournament scoring record and took the lead in the Golden Boot race with a pair of second-half goals on Saturday.

It was the highest-scoring World Cup game since Hungary beat El Salvador 10-1 in 1982, and the 10 goals were the most in a third-place match.

ENGLAND 6
FRANCE 4
Third-place Match

Saka had goals in the 37th minute and in first-half stoppage time, then added his third on a penalty in the 87th for his second career hat trick with England. The Three Lions also got goals from Declan Rice and Ezri Konsa to build a 4-0 halftime lead, and they hung on during a wild second half to secure their second-best finish in the World Cup. England won its only title in 1966.

England's Jude Bellingham capped the scoring in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time, his seventh goal of the tournament.

Mbappé reached 22 career goals, one more than Messi. The star striker finished this World Cup with 10 goals, two ahead of Messi in the race for the Golden Boot, which is awarded to the tournament's top scorer.

Messi will get one last shot at the scoring title when he and defending champion Argentina face Spain on Sunday in East Rutherford.

Bradley Barcola and Ousmane Dembélé also scored for France.

Both teams had said they'd rather be playing in Sunday's final. France had enough offensive firepower to potentially win the tournament, but Les Bleus lost to Spain in the semifinals and squandered their chance at reaching a third straight World Cup final. England blew a 1-0 lead against Argentina and lost 2-1 when Messi assisted on two late goals.

Still, a sellout crowd of 64,478 showed up to watch the seventh and final match of this World Cup at Hard Rock Stadium.

Plenty of supporters were cheering for both teams, but many were there simply for the atmosphere of the low-stakes match.

"I love English football," said Gaston Esquivel, a native of Mexico City who came to support England. "I've followed the Premier League since I was a kid. I am a Manchester United fan. I like their style, I like their game."

Thomas Viel, who traveled from Paris to follow France throughout the tournament, was hoping to see a hat trick by Mbappé. He nearly got his wish.

France trailed 4-0 when Mbappé flicked a shot past goalkeeper Dean Henderson in the 48th minute. Then he beat Henderson again with a left-footed strike from about 14 yards in the 66th.

"I think Messi will not score a hat trick tomorrow," Viel said.

It was also the final match for France coach Didier Deschamps, who has said he will step down after 14 years. Deschamps embraced players and waved toward the crowd as he exited the pitch. — *AP*

Halftime show adds wrinkle to Cup final

By MICHAEL DUARTE

For 96 years, the World Cup has belonged to the players. That's all about to change.

For the first time in World Cup history, the final will pause for an 11-minute halftime concert featuring Madonna, Justin Bieber, Shakira and BTS. They will also be joined by special guests Burna Boy, Coldplay, Post Malone, Gustavo Dudamel, the New York Philharmonic and Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, the PS22 Chorus and a cast of over 350 performers.

It's a spectacle that surpasses the Super Bowl halftime show and is expected to captivate more than 1 billion viewers, while raising more than $100 million to expand children's access to education and soccer around the world.

But the far more fascinating question for the players on the pitch is how the longer delay will affect the match between Argentina and Spain, and what the field conditions will be like in the second half?

Soccer's law has always said halftime should not exceed 15 minutes. The halftime show is expected to stretch that to more than 20 minutes. That extra time may sound insignificant to everyone except the 22 players preparing to decide the biggest prize in all of sports.

Elite athletes spend halftime trying to prevent muscles from cooling, heart rates from dropping and rhythm from disappearing. U.S. forward Christian Pulisic played through a calf injury in the first half of the team's opening 4-1 victory over Paraguay, but the 15-minute halftime break was enough time for his calf muscle to cool and start to tighten, leaving him unavailable for the second half.

That uncertainty makes the chess match inside both locker rooms almost as intriguing as the concert going on outside them.

Will players get longer time on the treatment table? Will they stay warm on the exercise bikes or treadmills? Will the coaches' halftime speeches get extended? Will the longer break benefit Argentina's older core or will it interrupt Spain's possession rhythm and high pressing?

Nobody knows because nobody has ever experienced a halftime this long before.

Spain manager Luis de la Fuente, however, embraced the challenge rather than resisting it.

"Before starting this journey in May we had a meeting with the players," he said. "We talked about humidity, long travel, time zones and recovery. We said, 'It is what it is.' ... Everything we considered strange or odd, hydration breaks, longer halftime, maybe 30 years from now it becomes normality. We have to accept the things we cannot change and enjoy it."

That pragmatic attitude may prove invaluable.

In order to protect the natural grass field, a custom polyester field cover has been created to shield the field while lightweight staging, specialized rolling camera systems and carefully choreographed setup crews race against the clock. All with one goal in mind: leave the field exactly as they found it.

If they succeed, the halftime show may be remembered as a groundbreaking celebration featuring artists from six continents all united by soccer's global reach. It's the perfect encapsulation of the tournament itself.

However, if the second half opens with tired legs, pulled muscles or sloppy passing because of an unusually long delay, critics will wonder whether FIFA's pursuit of a television spectacle came at the expense of the game itself.

Hosting not exactly N.Y. cash cow

By BRIAN LEWIS

Sunday at MetLife Stadium, Spain or Argentina will win the World Cup final.

But who are the financial winners? Will it be a boon or bust for New York?

It's complicated.

With only one game left, sports economists say it's unlikely the U.S. will enjoy the huge economic boom promised. At least not directly.

As a host, New York saw uneven gains. But there were immense corporate profits, with FIFA the biggest beneficiary.

The average ticket price for the final is the highest ever in the U.S. at $11,327 per TickPick. For perspective, Super Bowl LVIII in 2024 (Chiefs-49ers) had been the mark at $9,411, with Knicks-Spurs Game 3 the highest non-Super Bowl at $6,308.

Argentina-Spain will dwarf that.

But FIFA monetizes the event globally, with host cities and public entities forced to shoulder most of the financial risk. Local businesses like bars, hotels and restaurants got a short-term boost, but that ends after Sunday.

"Yeah, FIFA is a profit-maximizing organization. They're all over it, no question about it. And that's their right; they didn't force us to host the games. We wanted to," Dr. Mark Rosentraub — director of Michigan's Center for Sports Venues & Real Estate Development — told The Post.

"In the absence of the World Cup, [New York] could get a huge number of visitors; and some visitors who were planning to come aren't going to come during the World Cup because the prices are higher and it'll be more crowds. So what we're doing is replacing some oranges with bananas."

Consumer spending is up; but costs for infrastructure, security and transportation were passed down to taxpayers.

"It's big prestige," Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce president James Kirkos had told The Post. "I don't know that it's a huge moneymaker for the stadium because it costs a lot to live up to the requirements FIFA puts in front of you in order to be that host."

THE NEXT IN LINE

Messi faces Spain's teen sensation Yamal, with World Cup glory & history at stake

By MICHAEL DUARTE

For nearly two decades, the sport of soccer has belonged to Lionel Messi. Sunday's World Cup final may finally introduce the player many believe could one day inherit his throne.

Argentina vs. Spain is bigger than a meeting of the tournament's two best teams. It is a collision between soccer's greatest living legend and its brightest young star, with 39-year-old Messi chasing one final masterpiece while a 19-year-old Lamine Yamal attempts to write the opening chapter of a career already bursting with impossible expectations.

The World Cup final will mark the first time the two players have ever competed against each other on the pitch, but their connection goes back much further.

World Cup Final
SPAIN vs. ARGENTINA
Today
3 p.m.
MetLife Stadium
Fox

Nineteen years ago, a 20-year-old Messi cradled an infant Yamal during a UNICEF charity photo shoot at Camp Nou. Neither could have imagined that one day they would stand on opposite sides of the biggest match the sport has to offer.

"The first time I saw it, I thought it was AI and that it wasn't even real," Spain's Mikel Merino admitted Friday.

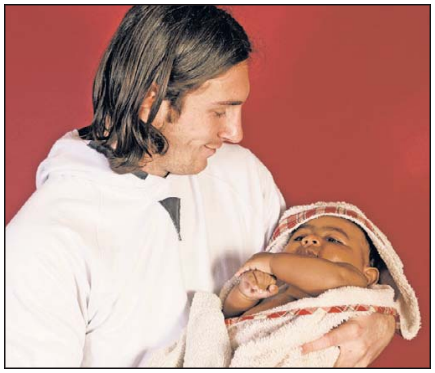
Not since Voldemort's encounter with "the boy who lived" in Harry Potter have we seen an infant's arc this dramatic. Now the photograph has become the backdrop to a final that feels less like coincidence and more like destiny.

Yet sentiment will disappear the moment the opening whistle blows.

Messi arrives at the final with nothing left to prove and everything left to accomplish. He's already regarded as the greatest soccer player in history and owns virtually every trophy and individual honor the sport can offer. Sunday's match will be his third World Cup final and in all likelihood, his final appearance for Argentina. He's also chasing history as Argentina can become the first nation since Brazil in 1962 to successfully defend a World Cup title.

Even at 39, Messi dictates games in ways statistics can only partially explain. He leads all players in the tournament with eight goals and four assists, but his greatest weapon is his ability to manipulate space. Defenses collapse toward him almost instinctively, as three England players did on Argentina's first goal in the semifinal. That creates passing lanes for other players to score.

Across from Messi will be the all-grown-up teenager whose career has unfolded along remarkably familiar lines. Like Messi, Yamal was discovered by Barcelona as a child, developed inside La Masia and announced himself to the first team before most players graduate high school. Both are left-footed and capable of turning an ordinary possession into a decisive moment. Yamal now wears Messi's iconic No. 10 shirt for Barcelona (No. 19 for Spain), but he insists he's never tried to become "the next Messi." Instead, he says, he wants to become the first Lamine Yamal.



One goal and zero assists in the World Cup hardly capture the influence he's had on the pitch. Spain's attack stretches because defenders cannot leave him isolated on the right wing. His fearless dribbling, explosive acceleration and willingness to attack defenders one-on-one have become the spark behind a Spanish side that has conceded just one goal while

ARGENTINA VS EGYPT
7 JULY 2026
ATLANTA

MIDAS TOUCH: Lionel Messi is trying to put the finishing touches on an all-time great career, while Spain's Lamine Yamal — once bathed by Messi as a baby (below) — now faces him as the next big thing, hoping to make his first mark on the soccer world.
Getty Images; AP (2)

Something we may never see again

Ethan Sears

WE WON'T say that Sunday is Lionel Messi's last game at a World Cup, because we've been down that road before, only to reverse out of it in haste. Neither will Lionel Scaloni, Argentina's coach, who met a question to that effect Friday by saying, "I haven't the foggiest idea, to be honest."

Messi could have exited this stage 3 ½ years ago after Argentina's epic triumph in Doha, Qatar, and no one would have batted an eye. That was, indeed, widely expected. He could have treated MLS as a retirement tour, made bundles of cash and been revered as something close to a god in Argentina forever.

He didn't. Well, at least not the retirement tour part. Not only has he led Inter Miami to championships and commercial success, he's led Argentina to another Copa America title and all the way to Sunday's World Cup final against Spain, the third of his career. Saying this is about his legacy would be like saying Anna Karenina was about Tolstoy's legacy — 11 years after he'd written War and Peace.

"He's pure history," Scaloni, the only player to pass to Messi before the latter was sent off in his international debut in 2005, said of perhaps the only athlete on the planet for whom that sentiment is entirely appropriate and correct. "A legend. And being able to reach a final at 39 years of age, I think it's something unbelievable, and that is why I said we must enjoy him.

"With Diego [Maradona], we still miss him, but Messi is still with us, so we need to attach importance to what he does, and he is the history. He is the legend."

If Argentina earns a fourth star on its jersey by winning Sunday, Messi will have surpassed Maradona in World Cup titles, but that is the most shallow way to look at this. For something deeper, start with the mural at Club Sportivo Pereyra in Buenos Aires, reworking Michelangelo's "The Creation of Adam" with Maradona as God and Messi as Adam.

Argentina is a place where soccer is so deeply embedded in the national consciousness that when Maradona died of a heart attack in 2020, three days of national mourning were declared with many thousands taking to the streets. That Messi, so deeply criticized at home for the first decade of his international career that he briefly retired following the 2016 Copa America final defeat, has achieved similar status is breathtaking.

That he's continued to build his résumé even now is astonishing.

No one in this sport has ever had such a positive impact on a team at such an age, in so many facets.

Take the semifinal as an example. Messi, according to FIFA's data platform, had 16 ball progressions against England. No one else, on either team, had more than five. No one else on Argentina had more than two.

Fatal as England's tactical choices were in that second half, they were fatal precisely because Thomas Tuchel's low block allowed Messi space to roam and conduct above their defensive line. On Lautaro Martínez's game-winner, Argentina was outnumbered 4-2 inside the 6-yard box. It took a perfect cross to produce that header, and Messi hit it off his weaker right foot after Nico O'Reilly successfully prevented him from going left.

That was at 39. In 2004, as a youth player, Messi's under-19 team at Barcelona met Luis de la Fuente's Sevilla in a tournament game. De la Fuente man-marked Messi, and with the game scoreless after 70 minutes, the player assigned to Messi picked up a yellow card.

"I took him off," de la Fuente said Friday. "And in 15 minutes, Messi scored four goals."

Twenty-two years apart, and only the details of the story change. We won't see anything like this ever again.

"A once-in-history player," de la Fuente said. "And he's an example, a role model for younger players. His attitude, at his age, he's playing such a spectacular World Cup."

If Argentina wins Sunday, Messi will surely take the Golden Ball — which would be his third — as the tournament's best player, and has a good chance to end up winning the Golden Boot. He could win his ninth Ballon d'Or, too.

It would be easy and convenient to call it a perfect end to Messi's international career, the cherry on top. Maybe it will be. He doesn't need more.

There is also another Copa America in two years, and a World Cup two years after that.

"He doesn't stop surprising us," Scaloni said.

esears@nypost.com

---

extending its unbeaten streak to 37 matches. In the semifinal against France, he drew the penalty that led to the game's first goal.

"He is one of the best players in the world right now," Messi said with admiration rather than insecurity Friday at Fanatics FanFest. "He's only 19 years old and he has all of his future ahead. That picture ... it was crazy. Him as a baby, and now we are facing each other. I wish him the best."

He smiled before adding another thought that sounded unmistakably like the lifelong Barcelona icon he remains.

"What's good for him will also be good for Barcelona."

If we're being honest, neither team is built around one player alone, and there are plenty of players who can and will impact the game Sunday. Spain's suffocating possession and defensive structure will test Argentina's physical, transition-heavy approach. Former Ballon d'Or winner Rodri called La Albiceleste "the toughest rival," while head coach Luis de la Fuente described both as "super teams" with strikingly similar football philosophies.

Still, every great final has its defining image. This one already has its before photo. The question is which image will come after.

Is it the legend lifting the trophy again and making history?

Or is it the teenager chasing the legend emphatically announcing his own?

mduarte@nypost.com

Skies finally clear for MetLife kickoff

Mother Nature may have delivered one final assist before the biggest match in soccer.

After days of wildfire smoke from Canada cast a gray haze over northern New Jersey, Saturday's steady rain and rolling thunderstorms arrived with a purpose beyond just disrupting Spain's and Argentina's training sessions.

The steady downpour likely scrubbed a significant amount of smoke and fine particulate matter from the atmosphere, hopefully setting the stage for a favorable forecast during the World Cup final at MetLife Stadium.

Earlier in the week, Spain trained under skies so smoky that players admitted they could both see and smell the haze, with breathing noticeably more difficult.

Forecasters now expect sunshine, temperatures in the mid-80s and lower humidity by the 3 p.m. kickoff, with no significant weather delays anticipated. Air quality is also expected to improve.

— Michael Duarte

SUNDAY Sports
NEW YORK POST
JULY 19, 2026

NY Post Design

END OF THE WORLD

Spain out to derail Argentina's repeat plans

SPAIN vs. ARGENTINA
WORLD CUP FINAL
Today, 3 p.m.
MetLife Stadium
COMPLETE COVERAGE
PAGES 83-80

BURNS STEALS SHOW FROM BRYSON

PAGES 71-69

WHAT WILL CASH DO AT DEADLINE?

PAGES 76-77

Two legendary New York institutions.
One team.
Montefiore Einstein
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees
All New York Yankees trademarks and copyrights are owned by the New York Yankees and used with the permission of the New York Yankees.